

ROMANS

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A LETTER THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

ROMANS 11

God's Covenant with Abraham:

“ I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

GENESIS 12:2-3 (NIV)

THE QUESTION: God, what about your promises to Israel?

“ I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel?”

ROMANS 11:1 (NLT)

1. Israel's Past: God has never abandoned them. God _____ His promises!

“ I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.” And do you remember God’s reply? He said, “No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!” It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God’s grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them.”

ROMANS 11:1-5 (NLT)

God has never abandon them. Just look at ... •Paul •Elijah (1 KINGS 19)

GOD'S LESSON TODAY: He will never abandon me, even when I _____ .

2. Israel's Present: Hardened hearts to the Gospel: Even still God is _____ .

“ So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened. As the Scriptures say, “God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.” Likewise, David said, “Let their bountiful table become a snare, a trap that makes them think all is well. Let their blessings cause them to stumble, and let them get what they deserve. Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see, and let their backs be bent forever.”

ROMANS 11:7-10 (NLT)

ISRAEL'S SPIRITUAL CONDITION:

Hard Hearts, Deep Sleep, Shut Eyes, Closed Ears Contributors to their Hard Hearts: "Bountiful table" and "Blessings"

God is keeping His promise by _____ . (Wild Olives)

“ But some of these branches from Abraham’s tree—some of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God’s special olive tree.”

ROMANS 11:17 (NLT)

GOD'S LESSON TODAY:

If your heart is growing hard it's time to _____ .

Join in sharing the Good News to _____ .

3. Israel's Future: God still has big plans for Israel's Future: God is _____ working.

“ I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. And so all Israel will be saved. As the Scriptures say, “The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.” Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. For God’s gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.”

ROMANS 11:25-29 (NLT)

All Israel will _____ .

Israel will play a big role in the events of the _____ .

GOD'S LESSON TODAY:

God is not done _____ .

NEVER GIVE UP!

DISCUSSION *Questions*

- 1 - How do you feel when someone does not keep a promise?
- 2 - Have you ever felt like you have had to stand alone for your faith? Look at the example of Elijah in verse 2-4. What lessons do you draw from this?
- 3 - Israel's heart had grown hard. Read verse 7-8 which words describing Israel's spiritual condition stand out to you? Read verses 9-10. How do you think a "bountiful table" or "blessings" could lead to a hard heart? Does this still happen today?
- 4 - If you are not Jewish and you are a Christian, Paul just called you a "wild olive tree." What do you think it means to be grafted into God's Tree? What lessons do we learn from this example (see also John 15:5-8)
- 5 - How does it make you feel to read about God's future plans for Israel? How is it helpful on a personal level to remember that God is still working on the the story of your life? Is there someone you have maybe given up on that you need to remember God is not done with their story as well?