

## Romans 11

1. In verse 1 Paul addresses an issue that is still an issue. After going to great lengths to show that the law cannot save us, Paul anticipates the conclusion reached by many: has God rejected the Jews. What is Paul's answer?

Paul uses himself as a way of proving that God has not rejected them. How does he do this?

What does Paul say about himself?

Read 1 Samuel 12:22 and Psalm 94:14. What do these verses say about this issue?

How would you respond to someone who believes that God replaced the Jews with the church?

Why do you think this is still a belief today?

2. Paul gives us another reason why we need to know the scriptures. He pointedly states that God did not reject His people. What does Paul use as proof?

What is the significance of God's reserving the 7,000 that did not bow to Baal? (See v.5.)

What is the significance of this remnant's not bowing a knee?

How has God chosen this current remnant?

3. Paul gives us an excellent picture of grace in verse 6. According to this verse, what is grace?

How do "words" negate grace?

What was Israel seeking in verse 7?

Why did they not obtain it even though they sought it earnestly?

How did the elect obtain it?

4. What does Paul say about those who tried to obtain favor through the law? (See vs 7-8)

What hardened them?

What is a spirit of stupor?

Why would God give them a spirit of stupor?

Does this verse mean that God prevented Israel from "seeing" and "hearing"?

What are we to learn from these verses?

What might keep people from "seeing" and from "hearing"?

5. Paul quotes David in verse 9. What does David pray? (See Psalm 69:22-23.)

What does this mean to you?

Why would David pray this?

Why would God answer such a prayer?

6. Why do people jump to conclusions?

Once again, to curb people's tendency to jump to conclusions, Paul uses another question in anticipation. What question does Paul use?

What does this question tell us about what the people were likely to think?

Also, again, Paul emphatically answers, "Not at all," to the false conclusion that Israel has fallen beyond God's reach. However, how did God use the Jew's transgression?

How does it make you feel that we (Gentiles) came to salvation through Israel's transgression?

Does this mean that if the Jews had not transgressed and had accepted Jesus that the Gentiles would not have known salvation? Please explain.

Can you think of a bad situation that resulted from a grievous sin that God used for good?

7. Paul next speaks to a future event in verse 12. What is that future event?

If the world came to salvation through Israel's transgression, what will be the result when Israel accepts Christ and comes into her fullness?

According to Paul's reasoning, how should the Gentile church feel about the salvation of Israel?

How do you explain the rise of anti-Semitism considering Paul's words?

8. For most of his letter, Paul has been speaking directly to the Jews. In verse 13, he now turns to the *Gentiles*. Why does Paul address this last argument to the *Gentiles*?

Could Paul still be addressing the church today?

Why does Paul refer to himself as the Apostle to the *Gentiles*?

What does Paul mean when he says, "I make much of my ministry (to the *Gentiles*)"?

Why should we all "make much of our ministry"?

What does Paul hope in addressing the *Gentiles*? (See verse 14.)

Of what does Paul hope the Jews will be jealous?

Does your life with Jesus spark others to jealousy?

9. How would you answer the question in verse 16?

So far it would seem that Paul has been focusing on Israel's failure to accept Jesus and, thus, their fall. However, Paul is really addressing the restoration of Israel. What does it mean that God can restore nations and us?

If we reject God's willingness to restore Israel, what are we saying about ourselves?

What are firstfruits? (See Exodus 34:26 and Numbers 18:12-13.)

In verse 16, who is the part of the dough that was offered as firstfruits?

Who or what is the dough?

If the firstfruit is holy, then what about the rest of the dough?

10. Paul next turns to one of the most commonly used metaphors in Bible: the olive tree. Why do you think this was such a common image?

Paul states that if the root is holy, then the branches are holy. Who are the roots? Who are the branches?

What is entailed in grafting a branch onto a tree?

Who or what is the wild olive tree? What does the "wild" denote?

Verse 17 sums up the *Gentiles* relationship with Israel and God. How would you paraphrase this verse?

As a *Gentile*, how does this make you feel?

Why would the *Gentiles* be boasting? Why does the church boast today?

According to Paul's explanation, why is it foolish for the *Gentiles* to boast and feel superior to the Jews? (See verse 18b.)

How does the root support the *Gentiles*? The Church?

11. Earlier Paul was telling the Jews not to boast. Now he says the same thing to the Gentiles. About what would the Gentiles boast?

Why does he tell the Gentiles not to boast?

If God broke off the natural branches because they did not produce good fruit, then what is the implication for the branches that have been grafted in.

Does Paul's warning still apply to us today?

According to verse 20, why were the natural branches broken off?

On what are the Gentiles and we to stand?

What would make Christians arrogant?

Of what were the Gentiles to be afraid?

Had the natural branches not been broken off, would the Gentiles still be grafted into the vine? Please explain.

What is the implication of verse 21 for the Gentiles?

Using Paul's argument to the Gentiles, what should be our relationship with Israel?

12. In verse 22, what two characteristics of God does Paul list?

In what way has God shown His kindness? His sternness?

How do these two characteristics work together?

What is the danger of focusing one without the other?

God never removes hope from us. Therefore, what does Paul say in verse 24?

13. What does the Bible say about ignorance? (See Hosea 4:6; Acts 17:30-31; Eph. 4:18.)

Of what does Paul not want them to be ignorant?

What is a mystery?

What is the mystery?

What does Paul mean by "the full number of the Gentiles has come in"?

14. What does Paul conclude in verse 26?

What does he mean that all Israel will be saved?

What "proof" does Paul give for this conclusion? (See Isaiah 59:20-21; Jer. 31:33-34.)

What is a covenant?

Why do you think someone would not want to enter into this covenant?

15. Verse 28 is interesting. What does it mean when Paul states, "As far as the gospel is concerned...?"

According to the gospel, what conclusion does Paul reach about the Jews?

As far as their election is concerned, what is Paul's conclusion?

Despite their rejection of Jesus, why are the Jews still loved?

According to the gospel, what conclusion can we reach about people today?

16. Verse 29 is another verse that is often quoted by itself. People often use this verse in reference to the church. We tell people that no matter what they have done, the gifts God gave them and His call on their lives are irrevocable. While this is applicable, it sometimes obscures Paul's original meaning. This verse comes at the end of Paul's reasoning that God has not rejected the Jews. How would you paraphrase this verse?

What is meant by the "call of God"?

What does Paul say about the Gentiles in verse 30?

Therefore, because verse 30 is true, what does Paul conclude in verse 31?

Is Paul's reasoning still sound today?

What is Paul's final conclusion in verse 32?

17. Verses 33-36 are often labeled in Bibles as the "Doxology." What is a doxology?



Why do you think these verses are called a doxology?

What does each verse reveal about God?

How or why are these verses consider worship?