

ROMANS 11:1-12

Introduction:

*Chapter 11 of Romans shows us the future of Israel - that Israel's "casting away" is neither total or permanent. Paul will verify this towards the last part of the chapter in Romans 11:26-27 - *And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: Rom. 11:27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.*

1. Some teach that God is finished with Israel and that the church today (the Israel of God) has all the promises to Israel now applying to us, "the church".
 2. Romans 11 gives us one of the strongest rebuttals of the view of Israel being done away with by God.
 3. Chapters 9 & 10 explained to us why God finally gave Israel up temporarily and ceased dealing with her as a nation. By God doing this, it has caused some to conclude that God is totally done with Israel and now has raised up the Body Church in place of Israel - becoming new Israel. That is called "Covenant Theology".
 4. Paul starts off in the first few verses that God has not cast away all Israelites. Though the nation had been rejected because of their unbelief and rebellion, individual Jews could be saved through Christ - just like Paul had.
1. Paul's opening question is "Has God cast away His people completely?" Has every single Israelite been

Romans 11:1 - I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, *of the tribe of Benjamin.*

cast off? God forbid! Absolutely not!

*Although God has cast off His people, this does not mean that God has rejected all of them. Paul proves this about himself in the last part of the verse: "For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin."

2. God has not given up on His people entirely. Just look at the conversion of Paul (Saul of Tarsus), once one of the worst and most bitter of enemies against an elect remnant of Jesus Christ.

I Timothy 1:12-13 - And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry; 1Tim. 1:13 Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief.

1. Paul uses the example of Elijah (Elias) in I Kings 18 & 19. Elijah has courageously challenged the prophets of Baal as to who had the "true God". Elijah (through God) proved His God was the only true God.

Romans 11:2-5 - God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying, Rom. 11:3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. Rom. 11:4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to *the image of* Baal. Rom. 11:5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

- a. Elijah had to flee for his life from wicked Queen Jezebel. When he was completely depressed and suicidal, Elijah complained to God about why this was happening to him, as he was God's faithful servant. You could imagine him saying "I'm the only one left"!

- b. But God revealed to Elijah that He had preserved 7,000 other believers and that Elijah was not alone - a small remnant still existed.

I Kings 19:18 - Yet I have left *me* seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.

*Paul's point here was to demonstrate that even in Israel's darkest time, God has never totally cast away His people.

2. Paul brings this truth over into his present time. God never leaves Himself without a witness. He always has a faithful remnant chosen by Him as objects of His grace - Verse 5, "*Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*"
3. To drive home the point between head knowledge only (lost people - the majority) and heart knowledge (the saved - minority), Paul explains again that salvation is not by man's righteousness, but by God's righteousness that we receive by faith.
1. This verse is one of several that show that grace and works do not mix. It demonstrates there is absolutely

Romans 11:6 - And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.

no compatibility between law and grace. The context here is about Israel.

*The Prophetic Program was working, but Israel did not get it and it was interrupted. Today, it is only by grace alone.

2. At one time in "time past", works had something to do with Israel. The Jews' mindset was that if one believed by faith and by works (do what God commanded them to do), they could be saved.
*The problem with this is that no one could keep the law, because all sinned.
Romans 3:23 - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
3. Because Israel had fallen, she lost all her advantages with God. In grace, God elected a remnant that were around in Paul's time.
 - a. Remember, God saves by grace in every dispensation because no one is righteous - no not one.
Romans 3:10 - As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:
 - b. God's choice was based on grace, not on works. Otherwise, no one could have been chosen.
4. Israel was still trying to live under the Old Covenant. But, Jesus Christ came down to give them a New Covenant. Their works program is over (the Old Covenant-Law) and now God's grace has changed everything.
*Unfortunately, they rejected their Messiah - except for a small remnant of true believers in Christ (the Little Flock) and one day grace is to be brought to this remnant at Christ's 2nd coming (ushering in the New Covenant).
Acts 3:19-21 - Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Acts 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.
5. This is what happened at Pentecost when the Holy Ghost was given. He caused them to walk in God's paths of triumph. They were not under the Old Covenant-which caused them to fail, but had a taste of the New Covenant that would help them to live godly.

Hebrews 6:4-6 - For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, Heb. 6:5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, Heb. 6:6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame.

Romans 11:7 - What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded

1. The conclusion was that Israel had failed to obtain righteousness because she sought it by her own self-efforts instead of through the finish work of Christ.
2. Paul describes the passion Israel was to have been seeking for:
 - a. The passion of the Greek was for knowledge.
 - b. The passion of the Roman was for power.
 - c. The passion of the Jew was for righteousness.
3. Most of Israel missed their national goal by rejecting Christ and so they were hardened. Only those of the elected remnant had obtained righteousness, because they had a heart faith in Jesus as the Christ-Messiah and not just a head knowledge.
1. This is exactly what the O.T. Scriptures had said about Israel's blindness.

Romans 11:8-10 - (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day. Rom. 11:9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: Rom. 11:10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

Isaiah 29:10 - For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.

Deuteronomy 29:4 - Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day.

2. God abandoned them to a state of stupor (slumber) because of Israel's unbelief against God's Son and the Holy Spirit - a temporary partial spiritual blindness taking place and making them unable to see the truth.
3. Though Israel is blinded nationally, it does not mean that individual Jews cannot come to faith.

2 Corinthians 3:14-16 - But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which *vail* is done away in Christ. 2Cor. 3:15 But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. 2Cor. 3:16 Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away.
4. David speaks of the snare (trap) to the nation. In the holy place of the tabernacle of Israel was a "table" where Israel's high and holy privilege was to eat with Jehovah at His table - offering peace offerings as well to the people in verses 9 & 10.

Psalms 69:22-23 - Let their table become a snare before them: and *that which should have been* for their welfare, *let it become* a trap. Psa. 69:23 Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.

*It means that as Christ brought great blessings to Israel's table, the nation rejected it and Christ became a "snare trap" to them.

5. In verse 10, Israel would not acknowledge or recognize her lost condition, so God let their eyes be darkened and put a burden on her back that she can't bear by judicially blinding her.

1. Paul now raises the question again, "Have they (Israel) stumbled that they should fall? Has Israel fallen

Romans 11:11 - I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

or not? No!

*Israel at first "stumbled" at Christ Messiah and they crucified Him. But Jesus asked the Father to forgive them in Luke 23:34.

Luke 23:34 - Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

2. Israel had another opportunity to repent in Acts 3-5 (the offer of the earthly kingdom to take place), but that has been taken off the table before the Body begins.

a. Later on they do fall at the stoning of Stephen, that you can find in Acts 7:55-58. Here is when Israel falls.

Matthew 12:31-32 - Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy *against* the *Holy* Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. Matt. 12:32 And who soever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the *world* to come.

b. That is why God took away the nation from them and gave the nation to who would bear fruit for Christ - the Little Flock remnant.

3. Paul is focusing on Israel, but now he mentions that because of Israel's fall - God has moved to the Gentiles in order to provoke the Jews to jealousy.

*This would begin the unfolding of the Mystery, which had been kept secret or hid in God.

1. Despite the present attitude of Israel toward Paul's gospel, he looks forward to the day when the nation will be converted.

Romans 11:12 - Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

a. As a result of Israel's rejection, stubbornness, jealousy, and rebellion, the Gentiles have fallen heir to such blessings through Israel's fall. God's riches to us are a gift.

b. In this sense, the fall of the Jews has meant the riches of the world. Through Israel's loss has been the Gentiles gain.

2. When Israel turns to the Lord, at the close of the Great Tribulation, she will once again become the channel of blessings for the nations.

*How much more will Israel's restoration result in rich blessings for all the world.

3. God will not forget His covenant with Israel - primarily the small remnant, the Little Flock. This nation Israel that has fallen and diminished will one day rise to fulfill God's plan for her.

Romans 11:25 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.