

We left off last time at the end of chapter 10. In chapter 11 we deal with the subject that Paul indicates about Israel's rejection not being final. Read chapter 11 – all 36 verses.

Vs. 1 – Paul asks – has God rejected His people? And he answers – By no means! He states he himself is a descendant of Abraham, and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

Vs. 2-3 – Paul reiterates – God has not rejected Israel, who he foreknew. He cites I Kings 19:10 – 14 (read) where Elijah says – “they have killed the prophets and demolished thy altars and only I am left, and they seek my life”.

Vs. 4 – Paul reminds the Jews that God's response to Elijah is that there are 7,000 men who have not bowed the knee to Baal. There is a faithful remnant in Israel.

Vs. 5 – Paul says that today there is also a faithful remnant, chosen by God's grace. While the Hebrew nation was disobedient to God, a minority of those who obey God exists. So God has not cast away His people. A remnant remains, chosen by God's grace alone.

Vs. 6 – The remnant exists, not based on their works; no, the remnant is a gift of God's grace.

Vs. 7 – Israel failed to achieve what she sought, but the elect attained it by God's grace. The rest of Israel has hardened hearts. God hardened their hearts for a purpose – so that the Gentiles could also come in.

Vs. 8 – Paul combines Deuteronomy 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10 – and says God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that cannot see, ears that cannot hear, down to this very day.

Vs. 9-10 – Paul quotes David – Psalm 69:22-23

Vs. 10 – Paul asks have they stumbled so as to fall? And he answers – by no means!

Vs. 11-24 – Paul speaks of the restoration of Israel. Vs. 11 – Paul says the Israel's apostasy has opened the door for the Gentiles to be saved and this has made Israel jealous!

Vs. 12 – If Israel's trespasses and failings brings riches to the Gentile world, how much greater will it be when Israel returns to full inclusion?

Vs. 13-14 – Paul shifts gears and addresses the Gentiles and claims – I am an apostle to you Gentiles and I magnify my ministry and make the Jews jealous, so that I can save some of them.

Vs. 15 – Paul says – if the Jews rejection means reconciliation of the world, how more will it mean when some Jews accept Jesus Christ and receive eternal life and come back from spiritual death?

Vs. 16 – Paul talks about “the dough” offered as first fruits being holy. This is a reference to Numbers 15:20-21, when a cake is offered to God. He talks about a second example of the roots of a tree being holy – then the branches that grow from it are holy. Paul states that because Israel's roots were holy, going back to Abraham and the Patriarchs – the branches that grow from their roots are also holy. So the holy roots of long ago will produce some holy branches – the Gentiles are part of God's plan of salvation.

Vs. 17-24 – Give the metaphor of the olive tree. Vs. 17-18 - Some of the branches were broken off- the Jews who were disobedient. So you Gentiles – a wild olive shoot – were grafted into the olive tree in their place. But you Gentiles must not boast over your new status. It is not you who support the root, it is the roots that support you.

Vs. 19 – You Gentiles might say – branches that were broken off made room on the tree for you to be grafted in.

Vs. 20 – While this is true, they were broken off because of their unbelief. You are grafted in because of your faith.

Vs. 21 – So don't boast. God's grace has saved you, grafted you in, not your own merit. IF God did not spare Israel, He also will not spare you if you fall away.

Vs. 22 – Note both God’s kindness in grafting you in, and God’s severity in rejecting Israel, the fallen ones. The kindness to you assumes you will continue in His kindness – if you reject Him you too will be cut off.

Vs. 23 – God has the power to graft even the disobedient back into the olive tree, if they repent from their unbelief. There is always a second chance with God. God is open to our return if we have fallen away.

Vs. 24 – If you Gentiles, who came from a wild olive tree have now been grafted into a cultivated olive tree, which is contrary to nature, how more will the Jews be able to return to God as cultivated branches by God because of their holy roots.

Vs. 25-36 – Paul says Israel will be saved.

Vs. 25 -This ongoing work and plan of salvation is a mystery. God has hardened Israel’s heart. But once the full number of Gentiles comes into the Kingdom of God, all Israel will be saved.

Vs. 26-27 – Paul cites Israel 59:20-21, and 27:9

Vs 28 – Paul says to the Gentiles of the Jews – Regarding the Gospel – the Jews are enemies of God because they have thus far rejected the good news of Jesus Christ, but Paul says, regarding election, never forget they are beloved by God because of their roots, the Patriarchs.

Vs. 29 – the gifts and the call of God is irrevocable. Once God promises you something He will not take it from you, but you can walk away from your faith – as Israel did.

Vs. 30 – Gentiles – Don’t forget – you were once disobedient – outside of salvation, but now you have received mercy, because of the Jews unbelief.

Vs. 31 – Now – they may received mercy through your witness to them!

Vs. 32 – God consigns all men to disobedience – “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” We are all alike before God’s holiness, Jew and Gentile alike. We all need God’s mercy.

Vs. 33-36 – deal with God’s mercy and our need for it – whether you are a Jew or a Gentile. Paul deals in these verses with God’s providence and His merciful ways. (read these verses)

Paul concludes this difficult discussion in chapter 11 on the historical working out of God’s plan of salvation with a final expression of adoring wonder and praise!! Many scholars accept these verses as a hymn and doxology. In these verses Paul concludes that even though I have tried my best to explain the situation of the Jews and the Gentiles, as best I understand it, in the final analysis, we are all a bit helpless and unable to understand His inscrutable ways.

Vs. 33- 36 says: - RSV – “O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable His ways! For who has known the mind so the Lord, or who has been His counselor? or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid? For from him and through him and to him are all things. To Him be glory for ever. Amen.”