

## **GOD IS NOT DONE WITH ISRAEL – ROMANS 11**

What then is the status of Israel? What about Israel's future and God's promises to them? Romans chapter 11 deals with these issues.

Romans 11 begins with yet another rhetorical question that reaches back to the issues of 3:3 and 9:6.

### **Romans 3:3 (NKJV)**

**3** For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the **faithfulness of God** without effect?

### **Romans 9:6 (NKJV)**

**6** But it is not that the **word of God** has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

### **Romans 11:1 (NKJV)**

**1** I say then, has God cast away **His people**? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

Israel's unfaithfulness has not canceled out the faithfulness of God, the Word of God, or the fact that they are still His chosen people. God's ELECTION PURPOSES still stand.

In Romans 11:1-3, Paul presents 3 lines of evidence showing that God has not abandoned His people, Israel.

v. 1 – Paul, an example of God's remnant

v. 2 – God's foreknowing of Israel – He has a plan

v. 2 – God's revelation to Elijah – He always has a remnant

Elijah ministered during some of the darkest days of apostasy in Israel's history. Yet even then God still had a remnant.

### **Romans 11:3–4 (NKJV)**

**3** “Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and **I alone am left**, and they seek my life”?

**4** But what does the divine response say to him? “I have reserved for Myself **seven thousand** men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”

Sometimes we might feel all alone, but we are never totally alone. There may be other believers around that we don't even know about. Elijah said, “I alone am left”, but he was wrong. Things were 7,000 times better than he thought. God always has a REMNANT.

### **Romans 11:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Paul's conclusion is this:

### **Romans 11:7 (NKJV)**

**7** What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

Israel has pursued righteousness in the wrong way – by works, and thus being blinded to the truth, did not obtain it. In contrast, the elect grace remnant has obtained righteousness on the basis of faith.

However, the present condition of Israel should not cause the Gentile believers to gloat.

### **Romans 11:18 (NKJV)**

**18** do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

Gentiles must remember that they are merely grafted in. Gentiles are indebted to the Jews. Jesus was Jew. Salvation is of the Jews (cf. Jn. 4:22). All the spiritual blessings that the Gentiles enjoy tie back to the Jewish root system (cf. Gen. 12:3). In the Abrahamic Covenant, all the families of the earth are blessed as seen ultimately in the coming of the Messiah Who was a descendant (humanly speaking) of Abraham.

### **Romans 11:20 (NKJV)**

**20** Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.

It was not because the Gentiles were so special that this happened, but rather because of Jewish unbelief. There is no place for gloating. The Gentiles stand by faith, which is a non-meritorious standing. The problem of Israel has been their UNBELIEF. It is the only thing standing in the way of their being grafted back in again to their promised covenant blessings. And, Paul goes on to say in v. 23 that ***“God is able to graft them in again.”***

### **Romans 11:25 (NKJV)**

**25** For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Verses 25-27 are the crux of the matter concerning Israel and the Church.

A mystery is something that previously was unknown. In context, it refers to the fact that God would temporarily set national Israel aside for a time in which there would be a Gentile emphasis that is predominant. Throughout the context of Romans 9-11, this Gentile emphasis relates to the Church Age, in which most believers are found to be Gentile in background.

The Gentiles are not to think that because they responded to the gospel, and the Jews largely did not, that they as Gentiles are somehow smarter or better. There is no room for being conceited.

It is to be noted that BLINDNESS on the part of Israel is not total. It is only in part. Again, God always has a Jewish REMNANT. Furthermore, this blindness is only temporary, UNTIL "the fullness of the Gentiles has come in." The fullness of the Gentiles marks the time when the Church is complete, at the time of the Rapture (cf. 1 Thess. 4:14-18).

Once the Church is complete, God will then resume His program with Israel, which will culminate in the Second Coming. The Rapture of the Church will be followed by the 7-year Tribulation Period, during which Israel will finally come to see Jesus as her Messiah.

God is not even close to being done with Israel – and ROMANS 11 PROVES IT!!