

Romans 11:1 *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.*

Paul had just spoke of Israels rejection of Jesus and the simplicity of receiving salvation through Him. Now Paul is about to discuss God's current relationship with Israel during the church age.

The Greek word for cast away is apōtheomai and means to reject or push away. Has God rejected or pushed away the Nation of Israel? It is not Gods nature to push people away. Jesus said come to me all you who are weary (Mt 11:29). The Father has drawn us with kindness, not pushed us away (Jer 31:3).

Romans 11:2 *God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,*

God has not given up on the nation of Israel. In the Old Testament Elijah said that he was the only one left serving God but there was a remnant of 7,000 still serving God during this time, even though they were hiding in a cave. It is never smart to say we are the only one serving God.

Romans 11:3 *"Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"*

This is a quotation taken from 1 Kings 19:10,14.

Romans 11:4 *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. "*

In the Old Testament there was still a remanent left serving God. Even though the nation of Israel as a whole had rejected salvation through a Savior, there was still some that chose to accept Jesus as their Lord; Paul was one.

Romans 11:5 *Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*

Grace is the better covenant established on better promises that we are under now where God is not imputing sins on people (2 Cor 5:19) and there are still people who are by faith choosing to believe in Jesus' work on the cross and forsaking their own.

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

We will either try to be right with God by our own works or through Jesus finished works but we cannot mix the two. Grace is independent of man's performance and puts sole trust in what Jesus accomplished for us. It is either all Jesus or all you but it cannot be both.

Many of today's churches are passing out cocktails on Sundays. Some of you are thinking; there is a church passing out liquor on Sundays? No, a cocktail is nothing more than a mixture of something but the church may as well be passing out alcohol because much of their congregation is getting a mixture of law and grace and their people are not sober and they are unstable in all their ways.

Anytime a person is drunk their perception is altered. Anyone that is mixing law and grace will have a false perception of who God truly is.

We either need to be under the law and allow the severity of it to bring us to our knees, or we need to be under grace and receive the benefits that flow from it but we cannot be under both.

The problem Paul addressed with the Galatians was them putting faith in Jesus but then falling from grace and going back into legalism and mixing both grace and the law because of the Judaizers coming in. The Judaizers were saying yes Jesus paid for your sins but you still must adhere to law and follow the act of circumcision. Anything that we do to be with right God removes us from grace.

Romans 11:7 *What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.*

Israel sought to be right with God through their own holiness but did not obtain right standing with God that way but the Gentiles who were not seeking after God did. They simply heard the gospel because they had no good works to trust in so they were easily able to rely on Jesus as their Savior and not become their own.

Jesus said to be perfect as our Father in Heaven is perfect (Mt 5:48). Anyone who thinks they are perfect is deceived.

Romans 11:8 *Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."*

This is a quotation taken from Deuteronomy 29:3, 4.

The Jewish Nation as a whole had not put faith in Jesus.

Romans 11:9 *And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them."*

This is a quotation taken from Psalm 69:22, 23

Jesus came to His own but His own received Him not but as many as did receive Him, He gave the right to be called children of God (Jn 1:11-12). The Jews rejected the way and opened the door for the Gentiles to come in.

Romans 11:10 *Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always.”*

This is from Psalms 69:23.

Romans 11:11 *I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.*

Through the Jewish Nation rejection of Jesus, the Gentiles were called into the covenant. The Jews should be jealous that God has opened the salvation to all and not just to them. The covenant God made with the Jews should have been a light to the Gentiles (Is 42:6-7).

Romans 11:12 *Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!*

How glorious will it be when God’s chosen people actually turn to Him and accept Jesus.

Romans 11:13 *For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,*

Paul’s commission was to preach the gospel to the Gentiles. The Gentiles were the people outside the nation of Israel and the covenant of promise. Paul was sent to minister to the Gentiles and Peter was sent to minister to the Jews (Gal 2:7).

Romans 11:14 *if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.*

Paul was a Jew himself but he was sent directly to the Gentiles to preach the gospel. Peter was sent to the Jews. The Jewish Nation was Paul’s ancestry which he once relied on for justification with God until by revelation (Gal 2:16, Eph 3:3) he learned of God’s acceptance of all independent of man’s performance.

Romans 11:15 *For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?*

The Jews rejected Jesus and the Gentiles were grafted in. When the Jews actually accept their messiah, it will be as joyful as a brother raising from the dead.

If the Jews continued to reject Jesus they are deceived and still spiritually dead.

Rom 11:16 *For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.*

In context, the Jewish nation was the first that God entered into covenant with. Jesus is the root but the Jews as a whole had disconnected from the root.

Relationship with Jesus will always produce fruit (Jn 15:8). It is in being connected to the vine through faith in Jesus that holiness or anything else is produced.

Romans 11:17 *And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree,*

The Jews were broken off and the Gentiles were grafted in.

Romans 11:18 *do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

The Gentiles should have nothing to boast in because it was not by their own holiness or goodness that they were grafted in. Boasting becomes excluded when a person comes to Christ because it is independent of the person and dependent on Jesus (Rom 3:27).

We are not held up by our own good works but by Jesus. The moment we begin to believe we are good enough apart from Jesus is the very time we begin to fall. Jesus is the vine and we are simply the branches (Jn 15:5). A branch is receiving nutrients from the root but is not the main support. We should take heed to this, lest we fall (1 Cor 10:12).

Romans 11:19 *You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."*

The Gentiles were brought into the covenant because God is good not because they were.

Romans 11:20 *Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.*

It is not because of the Jews' actions that are not in right standing with God. This verse says it is because of unbelief. God does not reject anyone based on their goodness but whether or not they have received His Son that paid for their sin to have His righteousness imputed to them.

Romans 11:21 *For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.*

Paul is not saying that individual sin will cut someone off from God but in context is speaking of the nations as a whole. The Jews were separated from God because of unbelief. The Gentile nation could be cut off too if they do not retain their right standing with God by faith as well.

We obtain righteousness by faith and maintain that righteousness by faith as well (Rom 1:17).

Romans 11:22 *Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off.*

The Greek word for consider is *eidō* and means to turn attention to or to be aware. In context, the apostle Paul is stating that the Jews had rejected God's way of salvation and the Gentiles themselves could fall from grace and into works.

It is the goodness of God that leads man to repentance (Rom 2:4). The severity that the Jews were experiencing were the consequences of being under a performance-based system. The Gentiles were experiencing the benefits of receiving Jesus and removing the burden of salvation off their own back.

Romans 11:23 *And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.*

Paul is speaking about God not totally rejecting the Jewish nation. He has not given up on His people and they are still able to be grafted back into the covenant.

Romans 11:24 *For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

How amazing will it be when God's chosen people repent and put faith in their Messiah.

Romans 11:25 *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.*

Israel thought the law was given to earn right standing with God but it was given to show they can never be right with God by their own holiness. Legalism will always point to our flesh and own efforts. Grace points to Jesus and His goodness on our behalf.

The apostle Paul's ministry was to open one's eyes from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God (Acts 26:18). Religion is one of the enemies' greatest tools.

Romans 11:26 *And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "the deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

This is a quotation taken from Isaiah 59:20.

This verse is not saying everyone that is a Jew will turn to the Lord but as a nation they will turn back and receive their Messiah.

Romans 11:27 *for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."*

The gospel is not anything new and was preached to Abraham (Gal 3:3, 1 Peter 1:10). Under the New Covenant of grace, God does not remember our sins so why should we (Heb 10:17)?

Romans 11:28 *Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.*

Paul is speaking of the Jews who did not believe.

The enemies of the cross are those who reject Jesus and trusts in their own holiness and goodness. They in a sense become their own savior (Phil 3:18).

Romans 11:29 *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

The Nation of Israel were God's chosen people and He has not totally rejected them. God is not an Indian given. Once He gives, he does not take back.

The Greek word for irrevocable is *ametamelētos* and means without repentance.

Romans 11:30 *For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience,*

Because of the Jewish unbelief it opened the door of salvation the Gentiles.

Romans 11:31 *even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy.*

God's mercy was extended to the Gentiles and it is now extended to the Jews in their current condition even though they rejected Jesus.

Romans 11:32 *For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.*

God's mercy is extended to all. He is no receptor of persons and has not rejected the nation of Israel (Acts 10:34).

Romans 11:33 *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!*

New Covenant prayer is based off getting a revelation of what has already been accomplished. We do not have to go through life not knowing the wisdom of God or His knowledge; we have an entire Bible for that (Eph 5:17, Col 1:9).

Romans 11:34 *"for who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become his counselor?"*

This is a quotation taken from Job 36:22.

Romans 11:35 *"or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?"*

This is a quotation taken from Job 41:11.

The Jewish nation were God's chosen people and He has not forsaken them.

Romans 11:36 *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

The entire Bible points to Jesus; all roads lead back to Jesus.