

# ***“God’s Providence, People, Promise & Power”***

## Romans 11

### REVIEW OF ROMANS 9-11

#### Chapter 9

Israel’s Past  
“*Selection*”  
God has a plan

#### Chapter 10

Israel’s Present  
“*Rejection*”  
God’s plan is fair

#### Chapter 11

Israel’s Future  
“*Restoration*”  
God’s plan is faithful

**Intro:** v.1a is the message of Romans 11, the rest of the chapter explains, applies, & celebrates v.1...

**Romans 11:1a = *I ask, then, has God rejected His people? Absolutely not!***

### I. ALL vs. SOME (“visible” vs. “invisible”)

Romans 11:1-10 = God’s Setting Aside of Israel is only PARTIAL

**Romans 11:1-10.... “Proof of Partial”**

1. Paul
2. Scripture
3. Remnant
4. Grace
5. Discipline

A. Evidenced by Paul, the writer

**Roman 11:1b:**

*For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.*

B. Evidenced by Scripture (cf. 1 Kings 19)

**Romans 11:2-3:**

*God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the Elijah section—how he pleads with God against Israel? *3 Lord, they have killed Your prophets, torn down Your altars; & I am the only one left, & they are trying to take my life!**

C. Evidenced by the promised remnant (cf. 1 Kings 19)

**Romans 11:4-5a:**

*But what was God's reply to him? I have left 7,000 men for Myself who have not bowed down to Baal. In the same way, then, there is also at the present time a remnant...*

D. Evidenced by God’s grace (cf. Jeremiah 31:31-37)

**Romans 11:5b-6:**

*...there is also at the present time a remnant chosen by grace. Now if by grace, then it is not by works; otherwise grace ceases to be grace.*

E. Evidenced by God's discipline of unbelieving Jews

(c.f. imprecatory/messianic Ps.69)

**Romans 11:7-10:**

*What then? Israel did not find what it was looking for, but the elect did find it. The rest were hardened, as it is written: God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that cannot see & ears that cannot hear, to this day. And David says: Let their feasting become a snare & a trap, a pitfall & a retribution to them. Let their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent continually.*

II. **STUMBLE vs. FALL (temporary vs. permanent)**

Romans 11:11-36 = God's Setting aside of Israel is only PASSING

**Romans 11:11a strongly reinforces 11:1a...**

**Romans 11:11a:**

*I ask, then, have they stumbled so as to fall? Absolutely not!*

**\*\*\* Contrast "stumble" vs "fall" \*\*\***

**Romans 11:11b-36 reveals:**

1. **Why**
2. **Warning**
3. **Warranty**
4. **Wrong**
5. **When**
6. **Written**
7. **Wonder-full**
8. **WOW!**

A. *Why?*

- a. Gentile Salvation

### Romans 11b-14:

*On the contrary, by their stumbling, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous. 12 Now if their stumbling brings riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full number bring! 13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. In view of the fact that I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if I can somehow make my own people jealous and save some of them.*

- a.i. Israel's temporary loss led to Gentiles permanent gain...
  - a.i.1. Matthew 8:11-12
  - a.i.2. Matthew 21:43 (parable of the vineyard)
  - a.i.3. Matthew 22:1-14 (parable of the wedding feast)
  - a.i.4. Acts 13:46-47 (Paul & Barnabas "lights" to the gentiles)
  - a.i.5. Acts 28:25-28 (Paul rebuking Corinthians...)
- a.ii. Jewish salvation brought thru their jealousy of Gentile salvation

### b. Jewish Salvation

#### Romans 11:15:

*For if their being rejected is world reconciliation, what will their acceptance mean but life from the dead?*

### B. *Warning!*

- a. Gentiles warned not to get cocky or hard hearted toward the Jews...

#### Romans 11:16-21:

*Now if the first-fruits offered up are holy, so is the whole batch. And if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 Now if some of the branches were broken off, and you, though a wild olive branch, were grafted in among them, and have come to share in the rich root of the cultivated olive tree, 18 do not brag that you are better than those branches. But if you do brag—you do not sustain the root, but the root sustains you. 19 Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." 20 True enough; they were broken off by unbelief, but you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you either.*

- a.i. **Don't become a Pharisees... when dealing with the Pharisees...**
- a.ii. Illustration given: first-fruits of the dough = representative of whole loaf
  - a.ii.1. See Isaiah 51:1-2 (same principle thru different illustration)
- a.iii. Illustration given: wild branch grafted into the vine vs natural branch...
  - a.iii.1. See **Matthew 21 parable of the vineyard**
  - a.iii.2. Remember: the root supports the branches, not visa-versa!
  - a.iii.3. **Both "breaking off" and "grafting in" branches = issues of faith!**
  - a.iii.4. Healthy faith also warrants healthy/righteous fear (cf. 1 Cor 10:12)
    - a.iii.4.a. If God would break off Israel's unbelieving people...

a.iii.4.b. Ephesians 2:11ff - **How much more so an apostate church**

a.iii.4.b.i. Read **Revelation 2:15-16**

a.iii.4.b.ii. Read **Revelation 3:16**

a.iii.4.b.iii. Read **Revelation 17:16** to collectively summarize the two above...

b. All are warned... “Behold then the kindness AND severity of God...”

**Romans 11:22:**

*Therefore, consider God's kindness and severity: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness toward you—if you remain in His kindness. Otherwise you too will be cut off.*

b.i. Perseverance of the Saints is underscored here... Saving faith is long term faith... Note: continuity does not create saving faith but rather, attests to it!

b.i.1. Read: John 8:31; 15:5-6; Colossians 1:22-23; Hebrews 3:12-14; 4:11; 1 John 2:19

b.ii. **“Because of God’s blessing of ancient Israel as a nation, many Jewish unbelievers shared in that blessing. In the same way, because of God’s blessing on the Church, many unbelievers within the Church taste that blessing. But if they fall away, God’s patience will be exhausted and His offer of grace withdrawn. The ‘blessing by association’ will be of no value when unbelievers face the living God in judgment and are eternally cut off from Him. Those who in unbelief refuse God’s kindness, in the offer of salvation, are destined to be cut off by His severity.”** – John MacArthur

C. **Warranty:** a guaranty to fix what is broken... (v.23-24)

a. God promises to graft back into the vine those branches that come back by faith!

**Romans 11:23-24:**

*And even they, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, because God has the power to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut off from your native wild olive, and against nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these—the natural branches—be grafted into their own olive tree?*

b. God calls home His prodigal sons.... Amen!

b.i. Note the conditional pre-requisite... “If they do not continue in unbelief...”

b.ii. Zechariah 12:10 & 13:8 show God’s sovereign plan to accomplish this promise, while Romans 11:23-24 reinforce the conditional requirement of faith for every child of God... the both/and of Sovereignty/”Free-will.”

D. **Wrong** (v.25a) – God does not want us to become “wise in our own eyes,” which is another way of saying that He does not want us to get this all WRONG...

**Romans 11:25a:**

*So that you will not be conceited, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery:*

- If God’s Word is not our final authority, we have the wrong authority!

- E. **When?** (v.25b) – While none of us know God’s specific timing of events, we do know that Israel’s temporary condition will last not a second longer or shorter than “*the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.*”

**Romans 11:25b:**

*a partial hardening has come to Israel until the full number of the Gentiles has come in.*

- F. **Written** (v.26-27) – Look very carefully at what has been written by God... AMEN!!!

**Romans 11:26-27:**

*And in this way all [h] Israel will be saved, as it is written: The Liberator will come from Zion; He will turn away godlessness from Jacob. 27 And this will be My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*

- G. **Wonder-full** (v.28-32) – It is only when one can see themselves in the portrait of God’s amazing grace and majestic mercy, that a true, biblical understanding of God’s relationship to Israel (short term and long term) can be appreciated and internalized personally.

**Romans 11:28-32:**

*Regarding the gospel, they are enemies for your advantage, but regarding election, they are loved because of their forefathers, 29 since God's gracious gifts and calling are irrevocable. 30 As you once disobeyed God, but now have received mercy through their disobedience, 31 so they too have now disobeyed, [resulting] in mercy to you, so that they also now may receive mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience, so that He may have mercy on all.*

- H. **WOW!** (v.33-36) – “Doxology” = “word of glory” (expression of praise & glory to God)

**Romans 11:33-36:**

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been His counselor? 35 Or who has ever first given to Him, and has to be repaid? 36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*

To understand the loving sovereignty of God, in light of the Jewish people, but more importantly, as applied to you personally, is to be in absolute AWE... anything less and you are not seeing or responding to the God of the Bible...

Read the following passages to learn more about some of the incredible expressions of God’s sovereignty, love, mercy, grace, trustworthiness, goodness, power, etc...

**Hebrews 10:23:**

*Let us hold on to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.*

**2 Timothy 2:13;**

*if we are faithless, He remains faithful for He cannot deny Himself*

**1 Corinthians 10:13;**

*... God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear...*

**1 John 1:9**

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive (A) us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

**You can STUMBLE IN... BUT NEVER FALL OUT... of God's Faithful Promises!**