

## **ROMANS 11:1-15**

*In this chapter, Paul concludes his analysis of the problem of the lost condition of the Jewish nation and how it turned out as riches to the Gentiles to hear the gospel and be saved. Even Jesus noted the obstinance of the Jews and coming reception of the Gentiles (Matt. 8:10-12; 10:5-6, 14; 15:28; 21:33-45)*

### **I) Israel's Rejection Not Total – A Remnant Preserved (11:1-10)**

- A) Had God cast away His people (utterly rejected without hope)? No!
  - 1) Paul was an Israelite of the seed of Abraham of the tribe of Benjamin, yet also a Christian saved in Christ (Phil. 3:3-10)
- B) God had not cast away His people (Israel) whom He foreknew (chosen for His purpose)
  - 1) Elijah had pleaded to God against Israel that he alone was left faithful (1 Kgs. 19:10, 14)
  - 2) God responded that He had reserved for Himself seven thousand [a remnant] who had not bowed the knee to Baal (1 Kgs. 19:18; cf. Isa. 1:9; 10:20-23 [Rom. 9:27-29])
- C) At this present time [in Christ] there is a **remnant according to the election of grace**
  - 1) If by grace (forgiveness, it is no longer of works (perfect law-keeping), otherwise grace is not grace
  - 2) If by works (perfect law-keeping), it is no longer of grace (forgiveness), otherwise work is not work
- D) Israel (as a nation) had not obtained what it sought (righteousness) (9:31; 10:3)
  - 1) The elect (believing Jews; 9:27) has obtained salvation (by faith), and the rest (non-believing Jews) were hardened by unbelief (2:4-5; 10:21); faithful individual Jews can find salvation in Christ, but those who refuse to do what God requires will harden their hearts against the truth (Matt. 13:14-15)
    - a) God gave a spirit of stupor (Isa. 29:10), and non-functioning eyes and ears (Deut. 29:4)
    - b) David said that they would have a snare, trap, and a stumbling block, and darkened eyes that cannot see (Psa. 69:22-23)
      - i) Psalm 69 is a messianic passage; portion that is quoted speaks of the enemies of God

*Paul deals with the question of whether God has cast away or utterly rejected His people, the Jews, without hope. The answer is “no” – even Paul himself had been saved in Christ. God has always reserved for Himself a remnant of the faithful, just as He did in Elijah's day. Now, in Christ, there is a remnant of God's people “according to the election of grace.” As a nation, Israel had not obtained the righteousness of God it sought. A chosen remnant of Jews had obtained it by faith in Christ, but the rest of the Jews were hardened and rejected it. Paul quotes from Isaiah, Deuteronomy, and Psalms to the effect that this had happened before and was fulfilled in his day.*

### **II) Israel Not Left Without the Hope of Salvation (11:11-15)**

- A) Has Israel stumbled (rejected Christ) only for the purpose that they should fall? No!
  - 1) Through their fall, God purposed that salvation would come to the Gentiles
    - a) The rejection of Jesus led to His crucifixion by which the gift of salvation was made available for all men in every nation – “riches for the world” (3:21-24)

- b) Salvation coming to Gentiles would provoke Israel to jealousy (10:19; Deut. 32:21) as they see God's riches (10:12) bestowed on another people (see Acts 13:42-51; 18:4-6; 19:8-10; 28:16-28)
- B) If Israel's sin turned out to be riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, **how much more** would their fullness be beneficial and bring glory to God
- 1) This reveals the ultimate desire of God – the salvation of all (1 Tim. 2:4-7)
- C) Paul speaks to the Gentiles as an apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 26:17-18, 20; Gal. 2:9; Eph. 3:1, 8)
- 1) Magnified his ministry (to the Gentiles) if by any means he could provoke to jealousy his fellow Jews and save some of them (remnant)
- 2) If their being cast away (rejected as unfaithful nation) brought about the reconciling of the world ("whoever" Acts 10:35), what will their acceptance be but life from the dead (spiritual resurrection from death of sin for individual Jews who believe)

*But had Israel stumbled so as to be lost eternally without hope? No! They had not fallen in the sense of apostasy but had fallen by sinning against God. Through their fall salvation had come to the Gentiles, and the salvation which came to the Gentiles would provoke Israel to jealousy to seek that same salvation that is freely offering in Christ.*

*Paul's ministry to the Gentiles would be magnified if he could provoke his fellow Jews to jealousy and save some of them. Their acceptance would be life from the dead, even as their rejection had brought about the reconciling of the world. As one writer summed up the message here, "Jewish rejection by God, led to Gentile acceptance by God, which in turn led to Jewish acceptance by God" (C. Reeves).*