

Romans 11 - NIV

The Remnant of Israel

1 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin.

All Jews are not lost because Paul is a Jew. He uses himself as proof that a remnant will be saved.

2 God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: 3 "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"? 4 And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal." 5 So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.

God saves a remnant, consistently throughout scripture we see the pattern with God. (Isa. 10:20-22). Israel as a Nation will not cease to exist and eventually will turn to the Messiah. (Zec. 13:8)

6 And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

God's choosing of a remnant is a work of Grace not works. salvation is an act of grace not works.

7 What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, 8 as it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, to this very day." 9 And David says: "May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. 10 May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever."

Israel was hardened to the Gospel.

Ingrafted Branches

11 Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.

God's plan of salvation.

Israel experienced a hardening in part until the gentiles received the blessing. They Stumbled but did not fall, one can recover from a stumble as opposed to a fall. God is not done with Israel.

12 But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

Israel's sin and forfeiture of salvation became riches for the Gentiles.

Matthew 15:27,28.

13 I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry 14 in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them.

The relationship of Gentiles with God and through Christ was meant to make Israel envious of salvation. Instead the Gentiles persecuted Israel.

15 For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

Israel's rejection of Christ reconciled the world (Gentiles) to God. Imagine what happens when they receive their King! There will be a remnant that receive Jesus as Messiah. What a glorious day that will be.

16 If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Israel is Holy unto God. God is the root or the vine, we are the branches. (Jn. 15:5).

Clearly this section is referring to national Israel not spiritual Israel, any understanding of the context settles that question.

17 If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, 18 do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." 20 Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

Arrogance has no place in salvation. It's a work of grace so no man can boast. (Eph 2:9)

Paul contrasts Unbelief with Faith ...If a person stops believing they will be cut off. John 15:2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.

22 Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.

The branch must continue to abide in the vine. (John 15:5). The work of God is to believe in Jesus Christ (John 6:29). Believers must keep believing or they are not believers.

23 And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

Israel can and will believe in Christ and be saved.

24 After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

God made you, an orphan, part of his family how easily will the natural children be welcomed back? God's plan is not Jew or Gentile it is both!

All Israel Will Be Saved

25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in,

The Reign of Christ is not waiting on a time rather a number. When the last Gentile elected to believe, calls on the name of the Lord the greatest revival in Israel's history will begin. This will happen during the tribulation period. God will turn his lens of elevation to national Israel and they will respond (the remnant left).

26 and in this way all Israel will be saved. As it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. 27 And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

Zec. 12:10 marks the beginning of the greatest revival.

28 As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, 29 for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable.

They seem opposed to the gospel but ultimately, they will fall into line with God's salvation plan.

God's gifts and call are irrevocable. God doesn't change his mind or take it back.

30 Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, 31 so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. 32 For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

God's desire is to show mercy to all men.

Doxology

33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! 34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" 35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?" 36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

The Doxology acknowledges the unsearchable depth of God's wisdom and knowledge. It tells men that his judgments are unsearchable and beyond tracing out and that no man can fully understand the mind of the Lord. However, with great arrogance men claim to have figured it all out. How God must chuckle when we make our absolutes on Theology.

There are things in Scripture that are unsearchable and with those things we must proceed with grace and love.

The doctrines we are sure of are plain, simple, uncontested and relatable to all men. With those doctrines we must be willing to stand and proclaim!

God help us to know the difference.