### Romans

## Chapter 11

1So let me ask: Has God pushed His people away?  
  
May that never be so!  
  
I’m also an IsraElite…  
  
I’m the descendant of AbraHam, of the tribe of BenJamin, 2and God hasn’t rejected these people whom He knew first!  
  
Don’t you remember what the scriptures tell us about what EliJah said as he was pleading with God about IsraEl?  
  
3[He said]:  
  
 ‘O Jehovah; they’ve killed Your prophets, they’ve dug up Your Altars, and I’m the only one left… And now they’re seeking my life!’ [paraphrase of 1 Kings 19:10, 14]  
  
4And what was [God’s] reply?  
  
He said:  
  
 ‘I’ve kept 7,000 people for Myself that haven’t bent a knee to BaAl.’ [1 Kings 19:18]  
  
5So the same thing is true today, for there are still some left over, who through [His] loving care, are being chosen.  
  
6However, [receiving] His loving care doesn’t come to them just because they’re [obeying the Law]! For if it did, His loving care wouldn’t really be loving care. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace; otherwise work is no more work. [spurious words]  
  
7So what happened to IsraEl?  
  
Well, not all of them received the things that they were seeking…  
  
Just the ones who’d been chosen from among them received it, while the rest just became more obstinate, yes, 8just as it’s written, God gave them a spirit to slumber so that their eyes haven’t seen, and that their ears haven’t heard – down to this very day! [a reference to places like Deuteronomy 29:4 or Isaiah 29:10]  
  
9David also said:  
  
 ‘Let their table be a snare, trip lever, and trap  
 As retribution upon them.  
 10Let their eyes grow dim, so they can’t see,  
 And their backs forever bent double.’  
 [Psalm 69:22-23, LXX]  
  
11So I ask:  
  
Did they stumble so [badly that] they couldn’t be raised [again]?  
  
May that never be so!  
  
However, they’ve been missing out as the gentiles were being saved, in order to make them jealous.  
  
12But if their missing out has enriched the world, and if their failures have enriched the gentiles... How much more will result when they’re included?  
  
  
13Now I want to address those of you who are gentiles:  
  
Since I’m really an Apostle to the gentiles, I can make my service even more glorious 14if I can somehow make those who are my own flesh[, that is, the Jews] jealous and bring some of them to salvation.  
  
15Because, if throwing them away will restore the world’s relationship [with God], then what will receiving them back again mean, other than life for those who are ‘dead?’  
  
16For if the first fruits [can be made] holy, [then the rest of the crop will also be holy]… And if the roots are holy, so are the branches!  
  
17Therefore, if some of the branches were broken off so that you ‘wild olives’ could be grafted in, you’ve become sharers in the fatness of that olive [tree’s] roots.  
  
18So, don’t start cheering because those branches [were removed]... For if you find yourselves doing that, remember that you aren’t supporting the roots, they’re supporting you!  
  
19Yes, you could, in fact, say, ‘The branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in’… 20And that’s a fact!  
  
They were broken off because they lacked faith, and you’ve taken their places because you have faith. But don’t think too much of yourselves… Be afraid!  
  
21For if God didn’t spare the natural branches, He doesn’t have to spare you either!  
  
22Therefore, recognize God’s loving kindness as well as [His] willingness to remove.  
  
So, although those who’ve fallen have been cut off and you’re now receiving God’s loving care... It’s only yours for as long as you stay in that [good relationship], because you can be pruned off too!  
  
23And then, if [the Jews] don’t continue in their disbelief, they’ll be grafted back in, since God can graft them back in again!  
  
24For if you were cut from an olive tree that’s wild by nature, and then, contrary to nature, grafted into the garden olive tree... Recognize how much easier it’ll be for those who are natural branches to be grafted back into their own olive tree once again!  
  
25Brothers, I don’t want you to ignore this mystery, so you don’t become too wise in your own eyes:  
  
IsraEl was allowed to become calloused until the full number of gentiles came in.  
  
26Yet, this is how all IsraEl is going to be saved!  
  
For it’s written:  
  
 ‘A Savior will come out of Zion,  
 And remove from Jacob, his godless ways.  
 27Yes, this is My promise to them,  
 After I’ve removed all their sins.’  
 [Isaiah 59:20-21, LXX]  
  
28Therefore, from the standpoint of the good news, they’e become His enemies for your sakes!  
  
But from the standpoint of the choosing... They’re the ones who are loved because of their ancestors, 29since the loving gifts of God and His calling are irrevocable!  
  
30So, just as you were once disobedient to God, but have now been shown mercy [despite your] disobedience... 31They’re now being disobedient.  
  
Yet, because you were shown mercy, they may also be shown mercy... 32Yes, God has locked them up together in disobedience, so that He might show mercy to all of us.  
  
 33‘O the depths of God’s riches, wisdom, and knowledge,  
 And the mysteries of all His decisions;  
 For His ways can’t be figured out!  
  
 34‘Who’s come to know the mind of Jehovah,  
 And who can give Him advice,  
 35Or give Him something that He must repay?’  
 [Isaiah 40:13, LXX]  
  
[And:]  
  
 36‘Since all is from Him, by Him, and for Him,  
 To glorify Him throughout the ages.   
 May it be so.’  
 [Job 41:11]