

Romans 11:1-12

God's Mercy on Israel

- ◆ I ask, then: Did God reject his own people? Certainly not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people, whom he chose from the beginning. You know what the scripture says in the passage where Elijah pleads with God against Israel: “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me.” What answer did God give him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not worshiped the false god Baal.” It is the same way now: there is a small number left of those whom God has chosen because of his grace. His choice is based on his grace, not on what they have done. For if God's choice were based on what people do, then his grace would not be real grace. What then? The people of Israel did not find what they were looking for. It was only the small group that God chose who found it; the rest grew deaf to God's call. As the scripture says, “God made their minds and hearts dull; to this very day they cannot see or hear.” And David says, “May they be caught and trapped at their feasts; may they fall, may they be punished! May their eyes be blinded so that they cannot see; and make them bend under their troubles at all times.” I ask, then: When the Jews stumbled, did they fall to their ruin? By no means! Because they sinned, salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make the Jews jealous of them. The sin of the Jews brought rich blessings to the world, and their spiritual poverty brought rich blessings to the Gentiles. Then, how much greater the blessings will be when the complete number of Jews is included!
- ◆ The Jews are God’s chosen people since the beginning. He has been with them all the time and blessed them yet they go astray by disobeying God; they bow to false gods, they kill God's messengers, tear down his altars and other sins. In spite of all this, God has not forsaken them (**God loves his people nomatter what they do, this is love at its best**); he chose seven thousand Jews by his grace who have not partaken in the sins as others (**God does his selection by grace and not by our deeds**). The rest of the Jews he has left them to their ways and they will suffer the consequences of their actions; their hearts were made dull, they were blinded though they see, and they were left to bend under their trouble but they they were not left to their ruin.
- ◆ The sins of the Jews brought rich blessing and salvation to the rest of the world (Gentiles). God did this to make the Jews jealous of the Gentiles.
- ◆ God punishes those he loves who deserve punishment. God’s punishment is so great and we don’t want it on us, hence, we ought to stay away from sinning. God shows mercy and will continue loving his people. God’s selection is by grace and not by out deeds/actions, we can’t bribe God by any action/deed we do.