## Israel’s Fall – Ch. 11

Romans chapter eleven talks about a remnant of Israel, which was saved by Grace. We see the Gentiles being warned not to boast. We see God’s mercy being extended to both the Jew and the Gentile. We see that God is true to His Word!

There are eleven questions posed in this chapter:

1. Hath God cast away His people? v. 1

Absolutely not is the answer. Paul points to the fact that he has communion with God and is of Israel a Benjamite. Israel whom God foreknow is not cast way and utterly forsaken by Him. She has turned her back on Him.

1. Wot ye not what the Scripture saith of Elias? v. 2

Elijah makes a different kind of intercession from Paul’s in Romans ten. In I Kings 19:10, Elijah testifies against Israel saying that they all were evil and none righteous remained but himself. Even God’s prophet didn’t see any hope of revival and was ready to cast them off.

1. But What saith the answer of God unto him? v. 4

The answer is that Elijah was not alone. GOD ALWAYS HAS HIS REMNANT. Paul parallels that with his day saying that there was yet a remnant according to the election of grace. There are those Jews whom the Lord in His foreknowledge knows have not yet returned, but they will in due time. God knowing some will answer the call, for the sake of that some, God has not forsaken His people.

1. What then? v. 7

If it were by works then Israel should be forsaken by God, but this election is by grace. Therefore, Israel has not obtained what they look for, but the election hath obtained it. This evidences the fact that God is still dealing with His people even though Israel as a whole is blinded.

1. Have they stumbled that they should fall? v.11

“The failure of the Jews has led to the opening of the door to the Gentiles.”—James Thompson. The salvation of Gentiles in return is a spur to the Jews to get it right. Though they have failed, Israel may return and is not without hope. (They must come by the way of grace, and not the law.)

1. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? v.12

The Gentiles should glory in that they have been engrafted, but not in the fact that Israel has fallen. As the Gentiles have benefited from their fall, they would much more benefit now by their repentance and return to God.

1. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? v.15

The Jewish people are the greatest testimony of the reality of the Gospel. They are living evidence of the accuracy of Scripture.

1. How much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be graffed into their own olive tree? v. 24

It is not impossible for Israel to be graffed in again for God is able to restore Israel which is cut off from the branch if He has graffed in a foreign branch to the olive tree—the Gentiles.

1. For who hath known the mind of the Lord?

How unsearchable are his judgments and His ways past finding out!

1. Who hath been his counsellor? v. 34

*If thou be righteous, what givest thou him?* Job 35:7a Who is man to question God? He has no place. Not only hasn’t God asked for our advice, but also He doesn’t need it.

1. Who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? v. 35

*or what receiveth he of thine hand*? Job 35:7b All things have their beginning in God. The story goes about the evolutionists who requested a showdown with God. They argued that man has evolved and advanced to such a point that he doesn’t need God, but can do anything God can. The competition was agreed to that God would make a man and the evolutionists would make a man. As the evolutionists began they reached down and gathered a hand full of dirt. God points at them and says, “ Get your own dirt.”

**ROMANS CHAPTER 11**

The eleventh chapter of Romans is assuring the reader that God is not through with the nation of Israel.

**What does Paul seek to prove by the illustration from his own life and from Elijah's ministry? Verses 1 - 6**

Verse 1: Paul says, "I myself am proof"

- I am an Israelite

- of the seed of Abraham

Verse 2: God has not cast away His own people

Verse 3: "I am left alone"

NOTE: There is always a tendency in a faithful man of God (when he gets discouraged) to think he is alone.

Verse 4: "God's answer unto him"

I have reserved (remnant) for myself of 7 thousand men who have refused to worship Baal.

Verse 5: Remnant according to the election of grace

Verse 6: not according to works

Verses 7 - 10: Paul here is speaking of the Jewish nation and their state of sleep. Their eyes are darkened to

what God has for them.

**What effect does the Jews' failure have upon the Gentiles? Verses 11 - 18**

Verse 11: Through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles

NOTE: The Jews are the "natural branches" of the tree of promise. The "Gentiles" are the grafted-in branches.

**How many of the branches were broken off?**

Verse 17: Some of the branches were broken off, and thou being a wild olive, wast grafted in

Some of the branches - this does not mean that the whole of Israel will be lost.

**What attitudes are the Gentile Christians warned about?**

Verse 18: There is a very great danger that the Gentiles glory over the branches

Gentiles are the beneficiaries of those promises which God lodged in Abraham. Abraham was the

root, the vessel of promise, and we (if we are in Christ) are His children.

**What attitude does Paul encourage?**

Verse 20: "be not high-minded but fear". It is not the Gentiles importance over that of the Jew, but the

aspect that the Gentile stands by faith. Being high-minded is contrary to fear.

Fear - Humility - Concious of unworthiness

**What warning does Paul give in verse 21?**

Verse 21: "For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest He also spare not thee."

Verses 23 - 24: "God is able to graft them in again"

NOTE: We know from a multitude of prophecies that Israel will not continue in unbelief! Thank God for this.

They must, of course, see to believe. There will come a day when the scales of blindness will be removed from

their eyes.

Verse 25: "Until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in."

NOTE: There is a definite "fullness" of Gentiles - the very number of which God knoweth - to "come in", that is,

to be saved; for this word "fullness" is not spoken as to privilege, but as to election.

Verse 26: "So all Israel shall be saved." This Scripture is speaking of the real elect. "Israel after the flesh"

will pass away and a believing Israel will step into place. This is the real Israel of God.

Verse 29: "For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."

- The gifts - recited in Rom. 9:4 - 5

- Calling - Israel is a Holy nation unto God

Isa. 66:22 - For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith Jehovah, so shall you see I and your name Israel remain.

Verses 30 - 32: The mercies of God.

We have in previous chapters seen universal guilt.

Now we see in these verses the Universal Mercy of God. God has dealt with us in grace -

unearned favor - but He has shown mercy when all was hopeless.

**By what truths is the Apostle Paul overwhelmed?**

Verses 33 - 36: "How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out."

NOTE: Having considered from the beginning of this letter man's condition and God's righteousness, merciful dealings with man. Paul bursts forth into praise.

Verse 36: "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen."

- all things - sun, moon, stars, earth, atmosphere, trees, animals, our bodies.

To whom be glory forever...In the ages to come we see worship without end, in which all glory will be given to God.