

Romans 11: Condensed Bible Study Notes

Key Questions

- What is an apostle?
- Is Paul the apostle of the Gentiles?
- Has God rejected the Jews?
- What is supersessionism (replacement theology)?

Family Notes

Israel sought righteousness through works, not by faith (Romans 10). Has God rejected His people? Paul answers emphatically: No.

Verses 1–10: The Remnant of Israel

- God has not rejected Israel (1 Sam 12:22; Jer 31:35–37; Ps 94:14).
- Elijah's appeal (1 Kgs 19) and God's answer: a preserved remnant (1 Kgs 19:18).
- A remnant exists by grace (Romans 11:5; cf. Rom 9:27).
- Salvation is by grace, not works (Rom 11:6; Deut 9:4–5).
- Only the elect are saved; the rest are hardened (Rom 11:7–8; Isa 29:10; Rom 1:24).
- Hardening is a judgment for persistent rebellion (Exod 8:15,32).

Verses 11–24: Gentiles Grafted In

- Gentiles grafted in to provoke Israel to jealousy (Isa 42:6–7; Deut 32:21).
- Paul is the apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15; Gal 1:11–16).
- Firstfruit = Abraham (Gen 17:5), Root = God's covenant (Gen 12:1–3), Branches = Jews and Gentiles.
- Gentiles do not replace Israel but share in the root (Rom 11:17; Eph 2:14–22).
- Do not boast—faith is the reason for inclusion (Rom 11:19–24; Jer 9:23–24).
- Continue in God's kindness or be cut off (Heb 10:19–23).

Verses 25–32: God's Covenant with Israel

- Mystery: Israel's partial hardening allows Gentiles into the Church.
- Fullness of the Gentiles: when the full number is saved, God turns again to Israel (John 10:16).
- 'All Israel will be saved' is debated:
 1. Future mass conversion of ethnic Jews,

- 2. Ongoing remnant,
- 3. Church as Israel.
- God's promises are irrevocable (Isa 27:9; Num 23:19).
- God has confined all to disobedience to show mercy (Rom 3:9; 11:32).

Verses 33–36: Glory to God

- God's wisdom is beyond comprehension (Rom 11:33).
- References: Jer 23:18, Job 41:11, Col 1:16.
- All things are from, through, and to Him.

Reflection

Romans 9–11 demonstrates God's sovereignty and faithfulness. While Israel stumbled, God has not rejected them. Salvation is by grace through faith for Jew and Gentile alike. These chapters refute universalism—salvation requires faith and knowledge of God (Romans 10:1–3). The Church includes all nations, but God still has a plan for ethnic Israel. We are called to trust God's timing, wisdom, and covenant purposes, remembering that His ways surpass our understanding (Proverbs 3:5–6; Romans 11:33).