



THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS

Salvation by Grace Through Faith

DOES GOD GIVE UP ON HIS PEOPLE?

Romans 10, ends in a sad note: “²¹ But of Israel he [God] says, 'All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people.'”

So in **Romans 11**, Paul asks: “¹ I ask, then, has God rejected his people?”

Does God give up on his people?



GOD DOES NOT GIVE UP ON HIS PEOPLE!

Romans 11:1

¹ Am I saying that God has turned his back on his people? **Certainly not!**

God helps people who are falling!
God is bigger than our failures.

Only those who persist in their rejection of God will ultimately be rejected by him. (See Rm. 1:24, 26, and 28)



HERE IS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS...

2 Timothy 2:11-13 (ESV)

¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him,
we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure,
we will also reign with him;

if we deny him,
he also will deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless,
he remains faithful—

for he cannot deny himself.



GOD RESPECTS OUR CHOICE!

Only those who persist in their rejection of God will ultimately be rejected by him.
(See Rm.1:24, 26, and 28)



“²⁴ Therefore **God gave them up** in the lusts of their hearts...”

“²⁶ For this reason **God gave them up** to dishonorable passions...”

“²⁸ And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, **God gave them up** to a debased mind...”

GOD WILL REDEEM ISRAEL!

- In **Romans 9**, Paul tells us that Israel was **ELECTED** by God. (**PAST**)
- In **Romans 10**, Israel is **REJECTED**... because they worked for salvation and never had faith in Christ. (**PRESENT**)
- In **Romans 11**, Israel will be **ACCEPTED**... when they put their faith in Jesus Christ. (**FUTURE**)



BY THE WAY...

- The unfolding of God's plan happens over time.
- To appreciate God's plan, you need to look at the past, the present, and the future!

GOD'S PLANS
FOR YOUR *life*
FAR EXCEED
— THE —
circumstances
OF YOUR DAY

FAITH IN CHRIST

Romans 11:1b-5 (CEV)

1^b ...I am one of the people of Israel, and I myself am a descendant of Abraham from the tribe of Benjamin. **2** God did not turn his back on his chosen people. Don't you remember reading in the Scriptures how Elijah complained to God about the people of Israel? **3** He said, "Lord, they killed your prophets and destroyed your altars. I am the only one left, and now they want to kill me."

4 But the Lord told Elijah, "I still have seven thousand followers who have not worshiped Baal." **5** It is the same way now. God was kind to the people of Israel, and so a few of them are still his followers.

SAVED BY GRACE!

Romans 11:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ So too at the present time **there is a remnant, chosen by grace.** ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.



A REMNANT

- God always keeps a group, sometimes small, of faithful witnesses around!
- God never depends on a majority to accomplish His will!

A TENDER PLANT

Isaiah 53:2



SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Romans 11:7-10 (CEV)

⁷ This means that only a chosen few of the people of Israel found what all of them were searching for. And the rest of them were stubborn, ⁸ just as the Scriptures say, “God made them so stupid that their eyes are blind, and their ears are still deaf.”

⁹ Then David said, “Turn their meals into bait for a trap, so that they will stumble and be given what they deserve. ¹⁰ Blindfold their eyes! Don’t let them see. Bend their backs beneath a burden that will never be lifted.”

SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS



GOD BRINGS GOOD EVEN OUT OF BAD

Romans 11:11 (CEV)

11 Do I mean that the people of Israel fell, never to get up again? Certainly not! **Their failure made it possible for the Gentiles to be saved, and this will make the people of Israel jealous.**

God can take even a bad thing and turn it into something good!
Consider, for example, the Cross!



THE GREATEST REVIVAL IN HISTORY!

Romans 11:12-15 (CEV)

12 But if the rest of the world's people were helped so much by Israel's sin and loss, **they will be helped even more by their full return...**

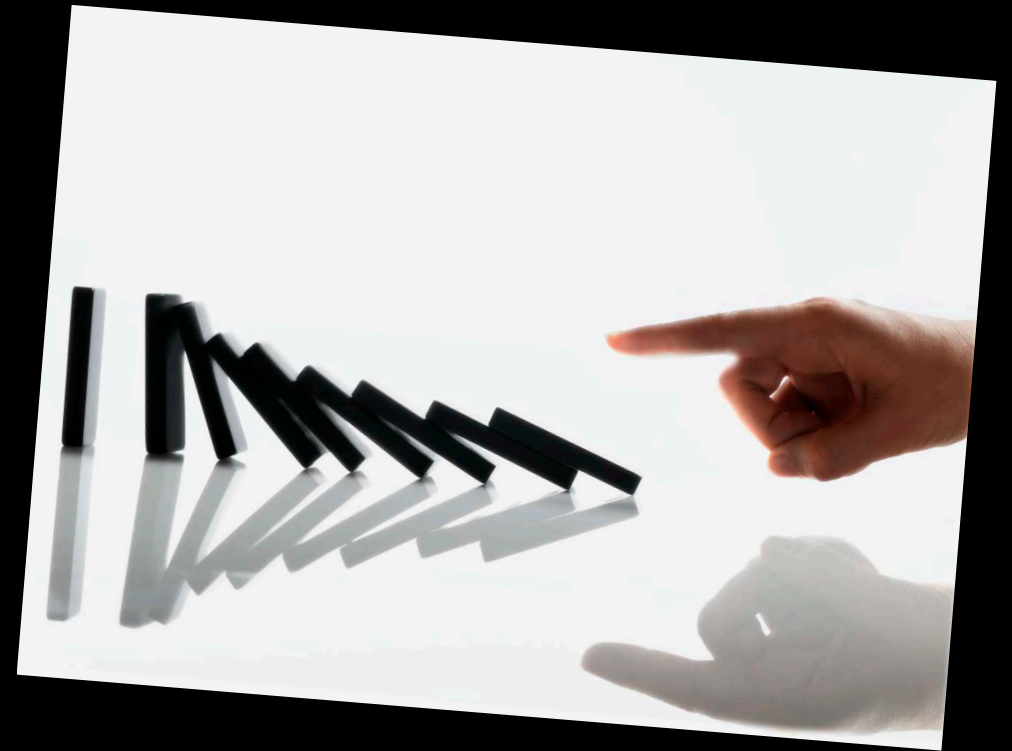
15 When Israel rejected God, the rest of the people in the world were able to turn to him. So when God makes friends with Israel, it will be like bringing the dead back to life.



A SMALL REMNANT... CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE!

Romans 11:16

¹⁶ If part of a batch of dough is made holy by being offered to God, then all of the dough is holy. If the roots of a tree are holy, the rest of the tree is holy too.



FAITH, NOT PRIDE

Romans 11:19-21 (CEV)

¹⁹ Maybe you think those branches were cut away, so that you could be put in their place. ²⁰ That's true enough. But **they were cut away because they did not have faith, and you are where you are because you do have faith.** So don't be proud, but be afraid. ²¹ If God cut away those natural branches, couldn't he do the same to you?



KEEP RELYING ON GOD'S GRACE



Romans 11:22 (CEV)

²² Now you see both how kind and how hard God can be. He was hard on those who fell, but he was kind to you. And he will keep on being kind to you, **if you keep on trusting in his kindness.** Otherwise, you will be cut away too.

THE MYSTERY OF GOD'S PLAN

Romans 11:25-26a (CEV)

²⁵ My friends, I don't want you Gentiles to be too proud of yourselves. So I will explain the mystery of what has happened to the people of Israel. Some of them have become stubborn, and they will stay like that **until the complete number of you Gentiles has come in.** ²⁶ In this way **all of Israel will be saved...**



GOD WORKS IN
MYSTERIOUS WAYS
ROMANS 11:25-36

THE WISDOM OF GOD

Romans 11:28-35 (CEV)

²⁸ The people of Israel are treated as God's enemies, so that the good news can come to you Gentiles. But they are still the chosen ones, and God loves them because of their famous ancestors. ²⁹ **God doesn't take back the gifts he has given or forget about the people he has chosen...** ³³ Who can measure the wealth and wisdom and knowledge of God? Who can understand his decisions or explain what he does?



THINGS WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW...

God is infinitely wise and infinitely good. We are not, so sometimes we simply do not know and do not understand. But here is something we do know...



Romans 11:36 (CEV)

³⁶ Everything comes from the Lord. All things were made because of him and will return to him. **Praise the Lord forever! Amen.**