03

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE

ROMANS

Lesson 15
The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God: Israel's Future
(Romans 11:1-36)



INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)				(1:1-17)	
	PAF	RT 1:	The REVELATIO	N of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
	PART 2: The VINI		The VINDICATION	ON of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)
		(A)	Israel's Past:	The Election of God	(9:1-29)
		(B)	Israel's Present:	The Rejection of God	(9:30 to 10:21)

At this time, the majority of Jews do not believe in Christ Jesus. But does the Jews' rejection of God mean that God has rejected them also?

This chapter has three parts:

INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)				
	PAF	RT 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)	
	PAF	RT 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	(9:1 to 11:36)	
		(A) Israel's Past: The Election of God	(9:1-29)	
		(B) Israel's Present: The Rejection of God	(9:30 to 10:21)	
		(C) Israel's Future: The Restoration by God	(11:1-36)	

In Chapter 11, Paul will reveal God's plan to restore Israel to glory.

INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)				(1:1-17)	
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		(C)	Israel's Future:	The Restoration by God	(11:1-36)
			1) Israel's Rejec	tion is not Total	(11:1-10)
			2) Israel's Rejec	tion is not Final	(11:11-32)
			3) Israel's Resto	oration is a Glory to God	(11:33-36)

Romans 11:1a

1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people?

In light of all we read in Chapter 10, Chapter 11 opens with a very good question:

Romans 11:1a

I say then, Hath God cast away his people?

STRONG'S CONCORDANCE

CAST AWAY

ἀπωθέομαι apotheomai from otheo (to shove) and apo (away from)

- to thrust away from one's self, to drive away from one's self
- 2. To reject, refuse.

Romans 11:1b-2a

God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham,

of the tribe of Benjamin.

God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.

His answer:

Romans 11:1b-2a

- God forbid.
 For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.

The fact that Paul himself was a Christian was proof enough that God had not cast away the Jews, not to mention the multitudes of other Jews who now believed on the name of Jesus.

Romans 11:1b-2a

- God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew.

God showed his commitment to Israel in this passage from Isaiah 41:

- ⁸ But thou, Israel, *art* my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend.
- Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.
- Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

God used the rainbow as a sign of his covenant with Noah. He swore by the sun, moon, and stars that he would not cast away Israel.



Jeremiah 31:35-37

- 35 Thus saith the LORD, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar; The LORD of hosts is his name:
- ³⁶ If those ordinances depart from before me, saith the LORD, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.
- ³⁷ Thus saith the LORD; If heaven above can be measured, and the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel for all that they have done, saith the LORD.

Romans 11:2b-3

- Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,
- Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

To demonstrate the sureness of God's plan, Paul uses the example of Elijah, the prophet who feared he was the last faithful Jew remaining.

(Elias is the Greek form of Elijah.)

Romans 11:2b-3

- Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,
- Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.

People who are not familiar with the Bible might think that Elijah was speaking of foreign enemies, but this persecution came by the hand of Ahab and Jezebel, the king and queen of Israel!



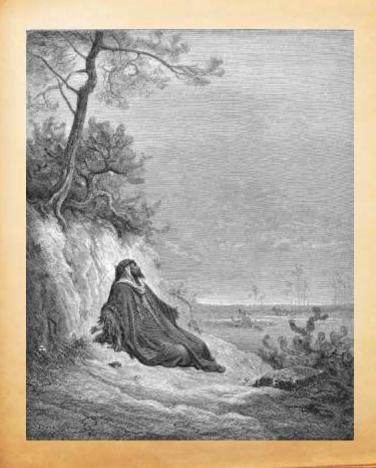
This story from 1 Kings begins soon after Elijah challenged and killed the 400 prophets of Baal.



1 Kings 19:1-14

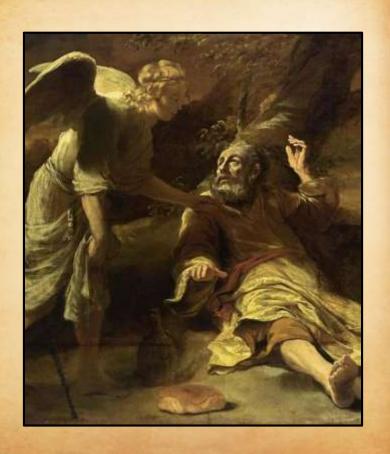
- 1 And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.
- Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

- And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.
- 4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

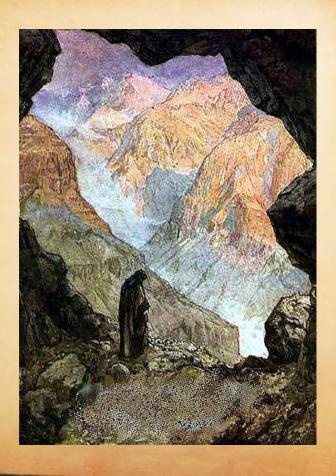


- And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.
- And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.





- And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.
- And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.



- And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?
- ¹⁰ And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts:

for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

Romans 11:4-5

- But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.
- 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Paul uses God's answer to Elijah to shed light on the situation of the Jews today!

Romans 11:4-5

- But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.
- 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Even in Paul's day, there were far more Gentiles than Jews coming to Christ. But this was according to God's plan of grace.

Now verse 6 makes a perfect comparison of grace and works:

⁶ And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.



But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.



⁶ And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.



Romans 11:7-8

- What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded
- ⁸ (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

In Romans 9:31, Paul said that "Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness."

But not all were blind to the truth.

Romans 11:7-8

- What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded
- 8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

Once again, it is easier to understand this passage when you leave out the parenthesis.

Romans 11:7-8

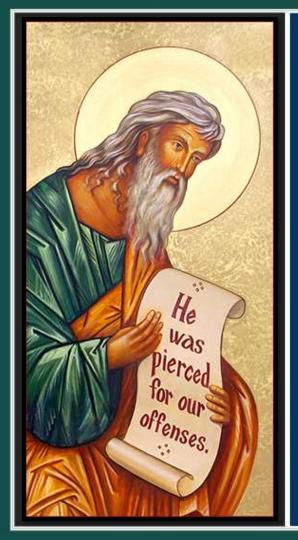
- What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded
- ⁸ (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

No, Israel's rejection is not total. A chosen few – the elect – have been given eyes to see.

Romans 11:7-8

- What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded
- ⁸ (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

The rest are blind and deaf to the things of God – another prophecy from Isaiah that is being fulfilled.



Isaiah 29:10-12

- For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered.
- And the vision of all is become unto you as the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one that is learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I cannot; for it is sealed:
- And the book is delivered to him that is not learned, saying, Read this, I pray thee: and he saith, I am not learned.

Romans 11:9-10

- 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:
- Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

Paul follows this with an equally hard word from the Psalms:

Romans 11:9-10

- 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:
- Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

This passage is from Psalm 69. This is Israel's punishment for her part in the crucifixion.

- ²¹ They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.
- Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap.
- ²³ Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.

Has God cast away his people?

No, he has reserved to himself a remnant according to the election of grace.

But the rest have fallen into spiritual slumber and blindness.

What will happen to them?

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Israel's Rejection is not Final (11:11-32)

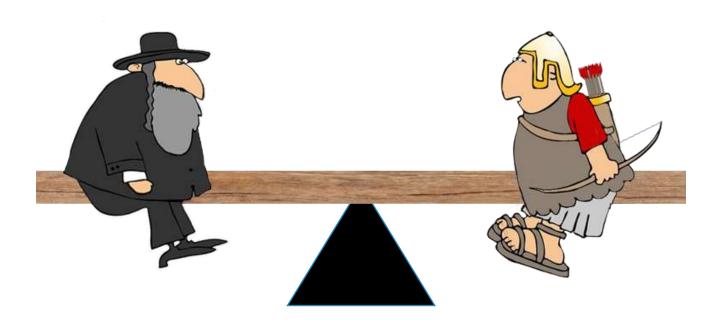
Romans 11:11a

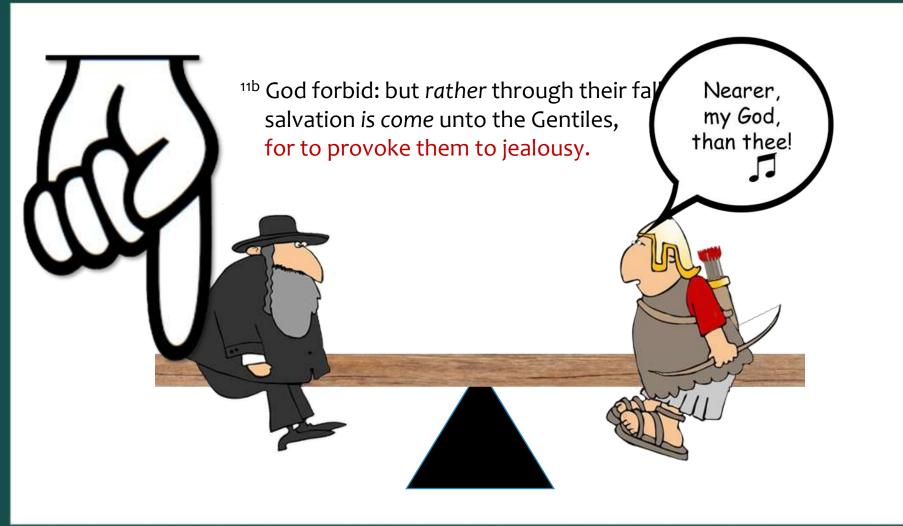
I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall?

The next segment of this chapter begins with another question.



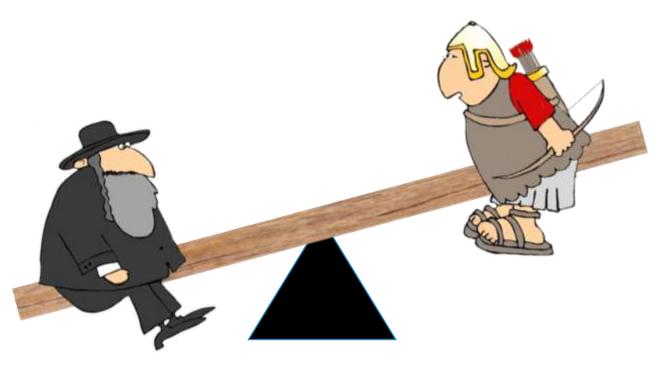
^{11b} God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.



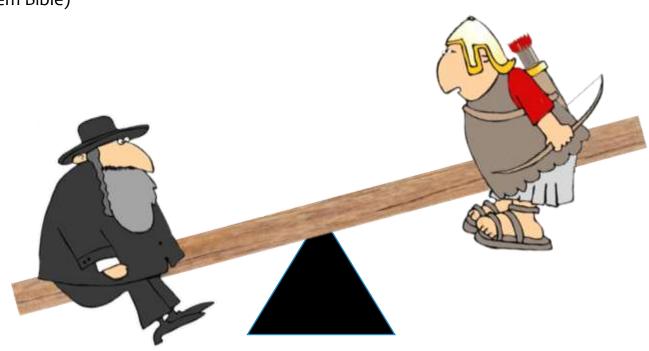


Romans 11:12

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?



"And if their fall has proved a great gain to the world, and their loss has proved a great gain to the gentiles – how much greater a gain will come when all is restored to them!" (New Jerusalem Bible)



Romans 11:13-14

- For I speak to you Gentiles,inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles,I magnify mine office:
- If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

And now for the first time in this epistle, Paul speaks directly to the Gentile Christians:

Romans 11:13-14

- For I speak to you Gentiles,inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles,I magnify mine office:
- If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Paul had a special ministry to preach and teach Christ to the Gentiles:

Galatians 2:8

(For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

Romans 11:13-14

- For I speak to you Gentiles,inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles,I magnify mine office:
- If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

Paul hoped that the good fruit in the Gentile Christians would stir up jealousy in the Jews and drive them to follow the Gentiles' example of faith in Christ.

Romans 11:15

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?

And why should the Gentiles care? Because it will be for everyone when Israel comes to Christ!

Still speaking to the Gentiles, Paul reminds them that all the blessings they enjoy came first to Israel through Abraham.



Romans 11:16a

For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy:



Romans 11:16a

For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy:





For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy:



holy, then the whole batch is holy ... (NIV)

In verses 16 to 25, Paul uses the picture of a natural olive tree and a wild olive tree to show the blessings that have come down to the Gentiles through Abraham.



In this picture, the ROOT is God's covenant with Abraham.

The BRANCHES are the people living in its blessing.

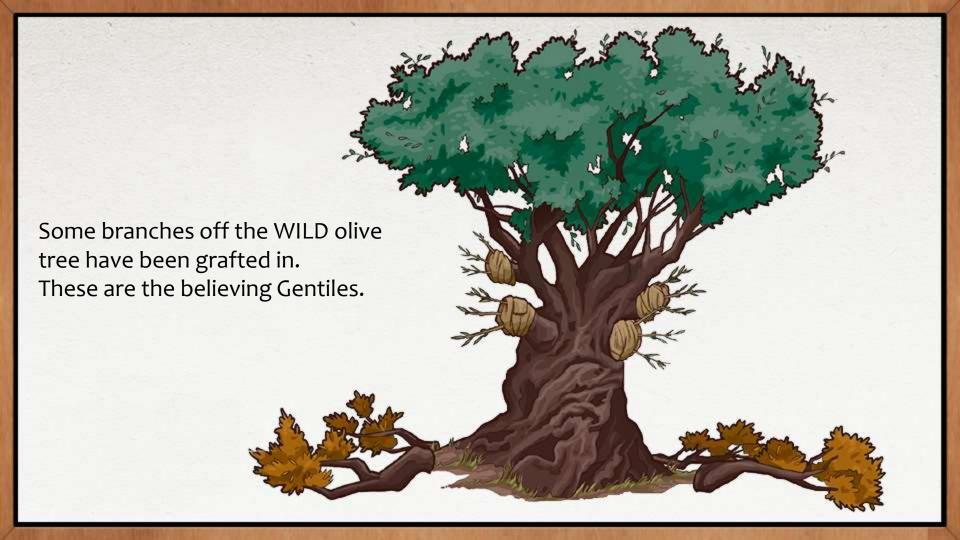


Romans 11:16b

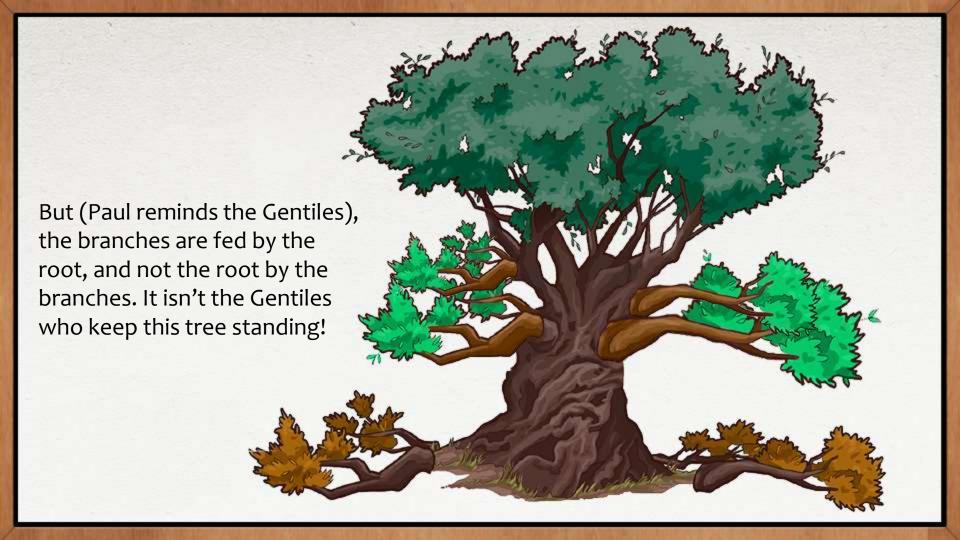
... and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

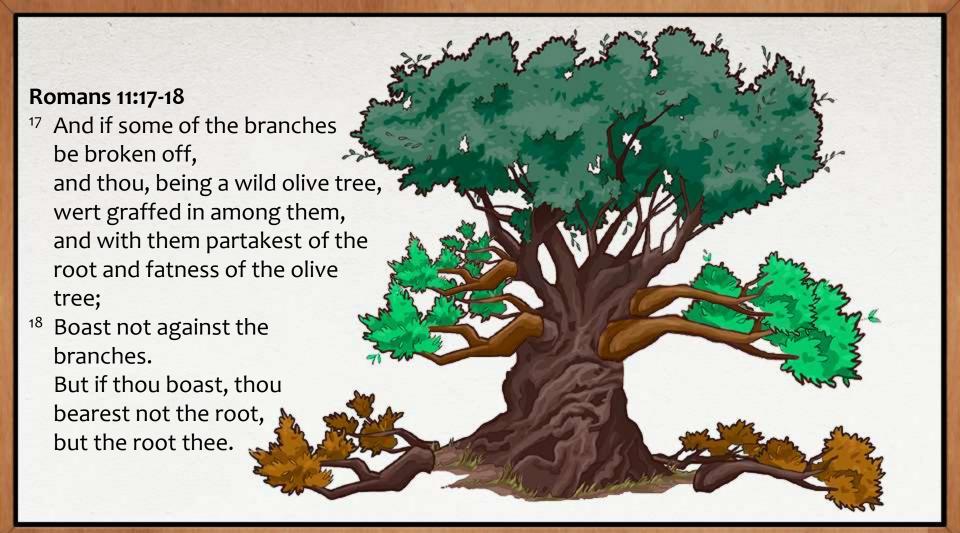


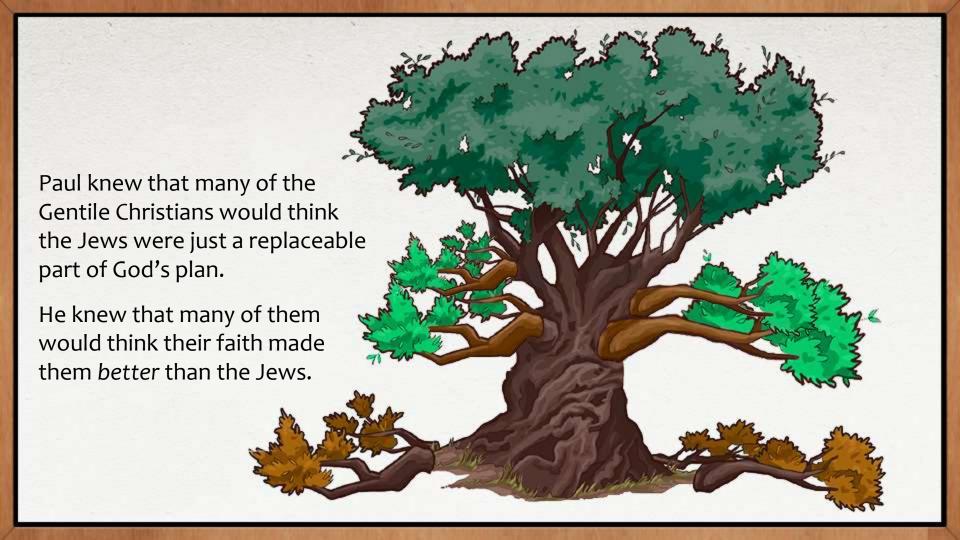


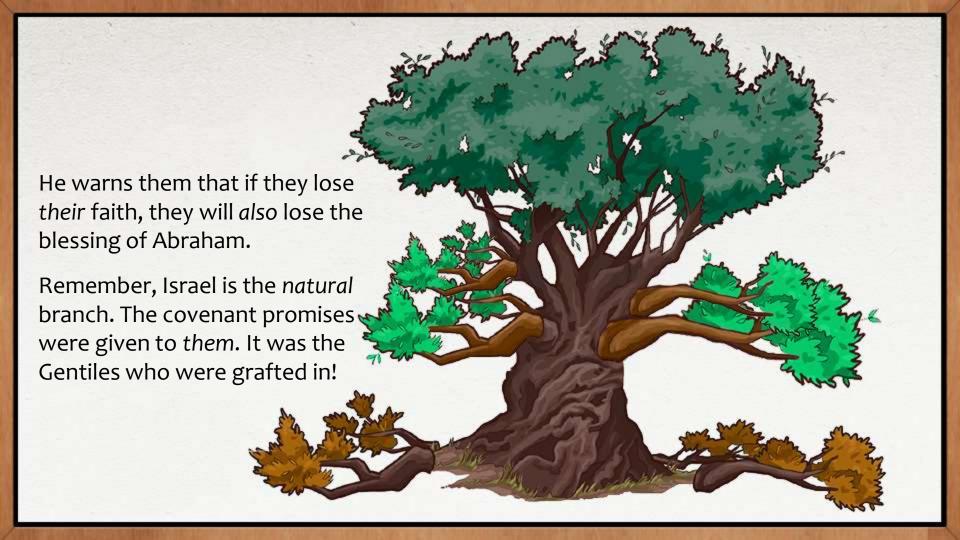


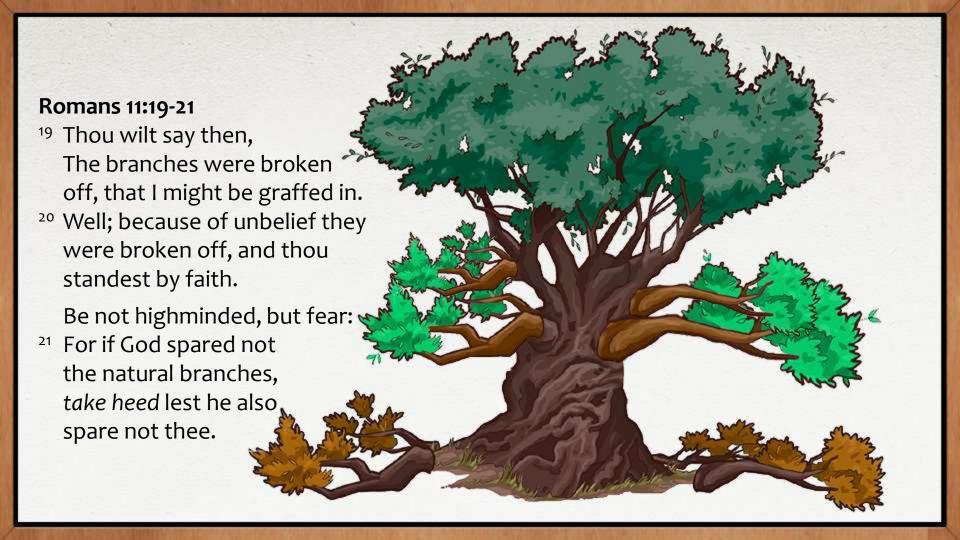














Romans 11:22

goodness:

²² Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his

otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.





Romans 11:23

²³ And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be graffed in: for God is able to graff them in again.



After all, who most belongs on the tree? The *natural* branches or the *wild* branches that were grafted in?







Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

This is all part of God's plan for the Jews and Gentiles.

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The spiritual blindness that affects the Jews is only in part (even now there are Jews who believe in Jesus),

Romans 11:25

²⁵ For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

The spiritual blindness that affects the Jews is only in part (even now there are Jews who believe in Jesus), and it is only for a foreordained period of time – until the last Gentile ordained to be saved during the church age is saved.

Romans 11:26

And so all Israel shall be saved:
 as it is written,
 There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer,
 and shall turn away ungodliness from
 Jacob:

The day is coming when the Jews will turn to Christ with the same passion that they now reject him.

Romans 11:26

And so all Israel shall be saved:
 as it is written,
 There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer,
 and shall turn away ungodliness from
 Jacob:

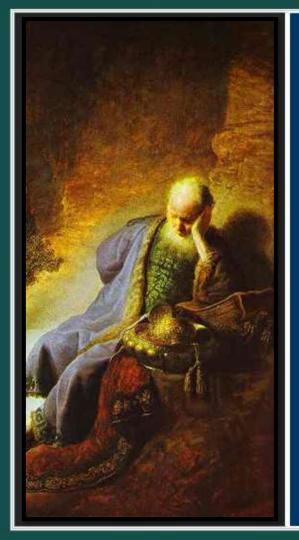
This comes from Isaiah 59:

- ²⁰ And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.
- ²¹ As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Romans 11:27

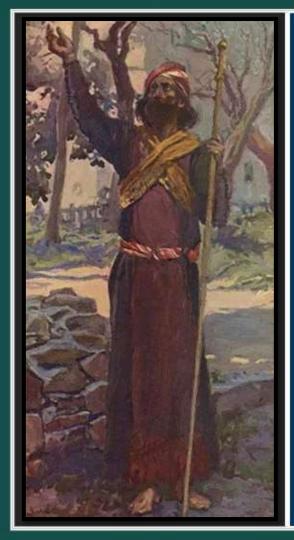
²⁷ For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

God's new covenant with his chosen people – foretold by Jeremiah and described at length in the book of Hebrews – will be fulfilled.



Jeremiah 31:31-33

- ³¹ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:
- ³² Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:
- 33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;
 After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.



A great awakening will bring all Israel to repentance and faith, as was foretold by the prophet Zechariah:

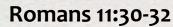
Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Romans 11:28-29

- As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.
- ²⁹ For the gifts and calling of God *are* without repentance.

That day has not yet come.
For now, Paul reminds the
Christians that the Jews may act
like their enemies,
but they are included among the
elect because of God's covenant
with the patriarchs.



For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:

31 Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.



THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)							
IINII	KUDI	DUCTION			(1:1-17)		
	PART 1:		The REVELATIO	N of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)		
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	sion		2) Israel's Rejection is not Final		(11:11-32)		
o this			3) Israel's Resto	oration is a Glory to God	(11:33-36)		
section:							



Paul finishes his presentation on Israel's Past, Present, and Future with a psalm of praise to the Almighty God who designed such a glorious plan to bring so many to salvation:



Romans 11:33-36

- 33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!
- For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
- 35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
- For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INTRODUCTION (1:1-17)

PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God (1:18 to 8:39)

PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God (9:1 to 11:36)

This concludes Part Two of the book of Romans.

THE STRUCTURE OF ROMANS

INT	RODUCTION	(1:1-17)
1	PART 1: The REVELATION of the Righteousness of God	(1:18 to 8:39)
	PART 2: The VINDICATION of the Righteousness of God	
UP NEXT	PART 3: The APPLICATION of the Righteousness of God	(12:1 to 15:13)

Before you begin PART THREE, take the time to reread Romans chapters 9, 10, and 11.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

- 1. What question begins Romans 11?
- 2. What is the answer to that question, given in Romans 11:2?
- 3. In Jeremiah 31:35-37, what did God say must happen before he cast away Israel?
- 4. What prophet's story does Paul use to show God always has a remnant?
- 5. What verse in Romans 11 shows the difference between grace and works?
- 6. According to Romans 11:8, what has happened to Israel?
- 7. In the picture of the olive tree, what do the roots represent?
- 8. What are the two kinds of branches? What do they represent?
- 9. According to Romans 11:25, how long will blindness be on Israel?
- 10. What three prophets are used in this lesson to describe the new covenant God has made with Israel?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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