

Romans 11

Romans 11.1-6

V1 – What chapters in *Romans* begin with a question? *Rom. 3.1, 4.1, 6.1, 7.1, 11.1*

-Was Paul a Pharisee or a Sadducee? Pharisee (*Phil. 3.5*)

-The difference? The Sadducees did not believe in the spirit world

-From reading *Romans*, how could we tell that Paul was a Jew? So many Old Testament references

-What question is Paul dealing with here? Has God completely abandoned and rejected the Jewish people?

V2 – A remnant to be saved – *Romans 9.27*

-Elijah spoke of being abandoned by the Jewish people

-Does anyone remember any facts about Elijah? *1 Kings 17-18* – The contest with the prophets of Baal, the persecution by Queen Jezebel, having to flee to a foreign country, etc.

V3-4 – A quote from *1 Kings 19.10, 14, 18*

-Elijah felt totally rejected by the Jewish people

-But had all of the Jews rejected Elijah? No, in spite of what Elijah thought, there were still 7000 who were faithful to God and had not bowed their knees to Baal

V5 – Was there a remnant of faithful Jews as Paul was writing this letter to the church at Rome? Yes, a remnant

-A lesson for us today? There are times when it looks as if the Lord's church is about to be extinguished from the face of the earth, but there will always be a remnant

-When the division came in 1906 over instrumental music in worship, the missionary society, fellowship with denominations, and similar issues, it is estimated that about 90% of the congregations were swept away by the apostasy

-But the faithful congregations knew that the kingdom of God would not come to an end, so these congregations began to rebuild

-Similarly, the message of v 5 was that there would be some Jews that would remain faithful to God and his son Jesus Christ

-The writer of these notes has known two Jewish Christians in the Chicago area, so God never abandoned his people

-It is just that most of his people abandoned him and the message of Christ

V6 – Where else in *Romans* had Paul said that salvation was by grace and not works?

Rom. 3.20, 3.24, 4.5, 6.14, 9.30-32

-Paul is stating again here that most Jews were lost because they tried to attain salvation by keeping the Old Law, along with all the writings of the rabbis

-Verses like these from *Romans* remind us of the words of Peter in *2 Peter 3.16*

Romans 11.7-10

V 7 – Israel did not obtain salvation, because they tried to attain it by works

-And when they rejected God's offer of salvation through Christ, God hardened their hearts to make them in example to the watching world

V 8 – A quote from *Deut. 29.4*

V 9 – A quote from *Psalms 69.22*

-“*Their table*” = their basis for righteousness (works)

V 10 – A quote from *Psalms 69.23*

Romans 11.11-24

V 11 – **Did God give up on the Jews?** No, they gave up on God (at least the majority of them)

-The writer of these notes has made several visits to the Field Museum in Chicago

-It is interesting, but sad, that so many of the dates there are labeled as either "B.C.E." or "C.E.," which stand "Before the Common Era" or "Common Era"

-The continuing rejection of Christ by the Jews can still be seen, even in dating events in world history

-Anything to keep from referring to Christ (B.C. = Before Christ, A.D. = Anno Domini – In the Year of Our Lord)

-The rejection of Christ by his own people continues

V 12 – “*Their fulfillment*” = the end of the Old Law

-They had served their purpose

-**What had the Jews taught the world?**

-Monotheism

-Prophecies of Messiah

-Opposition to idolatry

-Ten Commandments (a good legal system)

-Origin of man and sin

V 13 – Paul has been writing about the Jews for many chapters, and he now turns his attention to his readers in Rome, who were mostly Gentiles, not Jews

-**Why was Paul interested in the Gentiles?** Because Christ had commissioned him to devote the main thrust of his ministry to the Gentiles (*Acts 9.15*)

V 14 – **What was the advantage of Paul's ministry to the Gentiles?** It might make some of the Jews jealous to the point that they could be converted to Christ

V 15 – **Could the Jews still turn to Christ?** Yes

V 16 – **Any interpretations?** The root of righteousness will produce some good results

-This verse is based on *Numbers 15.19-20*

Romans 11.17-14

V 17 – Grafted stock = Gentiles

-**Why can Gentiles not boast?** Root supports branch – the branch cannot brag about being better than the roots of the tree

V 18 – The branches (Gentiles) ought not to be bragging about their salvation, because it is based on the power of the Law in the Old Testament

V 19 – Again, they should not rejoice and feel proud that the Gentiles have replaced the Jews on the holy tree

V 20 – **Why should the Gentiles not be arrogant?** Jews were cut off, so Gentiles can also be cut off

-**Instead of being conceited, how should the Gentiles view their faith?** With fear (that unless they remain faithful....)

V 21 – They also can be cut off

V 22 – **What are the two aspects of God?** His goodness and his severity

-**Today in almost all denominational churches, which aspect is stressed over the other?**
His goodness

-Some of the TV evangelists have even stated that they will not even mention the word "sin," because they don't want to offend anyone

V 23 – **In theory what could happen to the Jews as a people?** They could change their lives and become faithful Christians

-**Would God accept them back?** Yes, he would graft them back into his holy tree

V 24 – **What would be the advantage of the Jews being grafted back in?** They had been a part of the natural tree to begin with, and it would therefore be easy to graft them back into the tree

Romans 11.25-32

V 25 – **What did Paul not want to happen to the Gentiles?** That they would become arrogant over the fall of the Jews (that they would become wise in their own estimation)

V 26 – A quote from *Isaiah 59.20*

V 27 – Quotes from *Isaiah 59.21, Jer. 31.33*

-In trying to understand how "*all Israel will be saved,*" let us remember that both Jews and

Gentiles were brought together into the body of Christ

-Read Ephesians 2.11-22

-In this passage, therefore, "*Israel*" refers to spiritual Israel, not fleshly Israel

-So there are no longer two bodies of righteous people (a remnant of the Jews, plus the Gentiles), but one body: the body of Christ or symbolically "*all Israel*"

V 28 – **Does God still love the Jews?** Yes, and his offer of salvation through Christ still stands

V 29 – God's offer of salvation cannot be revoked

V 30 – The Gentiles have been shown mercy and a way to be saved

V 31 – **What about the Jews?** God's offer of salvation to them is also still in effect

V 32 – **How broad is God's mercy?** It is available to all

Romans 11.33-36

V 33 – **What is Paul rejoicing about here?** The unfathomable mercy of God to all people
-What an incredibly beautiful verse!

V 34 – **How can mankind understand the mercy and greatness of God?** (a rhetorical question)

V 35 – **Can we outshine God when it comes to mercy and blessings?** No way

V 36 – A beautiful doxology to God (at the end of one of the deepest and most profound chapters of the Bible)

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