

Comments About Romans 11

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BIG SANDY, Texas—Recently, I began a series of brief articles to discuss chapters in the book of Romans. This week, we will talk about chapter 11.

May this project encourage you to review the valuable history found in the book of Romans.

Israel's rejection not total

As I mentioned in the article about chapter 3, the apostle Paul at various junctures in the book of Romans asked questions that could be considered ridiculous. In each case, he answered "God forbid" in the King James Version ("certainly not" in the New King James Version).

He asked such questions 10 times in the book of Romans. (Here is a list of all 10 times: Romans 3:3-4; 3:5-6; 3:31; 6:1-2; 6:14-15; 7:7; 7:13; 9:14; 11:1; and 11:11.) As you can see, two of the times are listed in this chapter.

■ In verse 1, Paul asked: Has God cast away His people? His answer: Certainly not. Notice what else he said.

Romans 11:1—"I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin."

■ Paul mentioned Elijah by paraphrasing 1 Kings 19:10, 14 (Romans 11:2-3).

■ Paul mentioned the Lord's response to Elijah in 1 Kings 19:4 (verse 4).

■ Paul stated that at the time of his life there was a "remnant according to the election of grace" (verse 5).

■ Paul reminded the audience that salvation by grace was superior to works (verse 6).

■ Paul paraphrased Deuteronomy 29:4 (verse 7).

■ Paul paraphrased Psalm 69:22-23 (verses 8-9).

Israel's rejection not final

■ In verse 11, Paul asked: Have they stumbled that they should fall? He answered: Certainly not. Notice what else he said.

Romans 11:11—"I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall?"

Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.”

- The fall of Israel was riches for the world and for the gentiles (verse 12).
- Paul reminded the audience that he was an apostle to the gentiles (verses 13-14). See also Acts 9:15.
- Paul used the metaphor that Israel’s return to God will be like bringing the dead back to life (verse 15).
- Paul used the metaphor that, if the root is holy, then so are the branches (verse 16).
- Paul continued with the metaphor describing how some branches were broken off and other branches were grafted into the tree (verses 17-24).
- Paul said that the hardening of Israel happened in part until the fullness of the gentiles had come in (verse 25).
- Paul paraphrased Isaiah 59:20-21 (verses 26-27).
- Paul mentioned that, even though Israel is considered by many to be “enemies,” they were still beloved by God (verse 28).
- The calling of God is irrevocable (verse 29).
- Just as gentiles have been disobedient to God, Israel became disobedient to God—and this helped the gentiles to receive mercy (verses 30-31).
- God will have mercy upon all (verse 32).

Notice Romans 11:33.

Romans 11:33—“Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!”

- Paul paraphrased Isaiah 40:13 and Jeremiah 23:18 (verse 34).
- Paul paraphrased Job 41:11 (verse 35).

Romans 11:36—“For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.”