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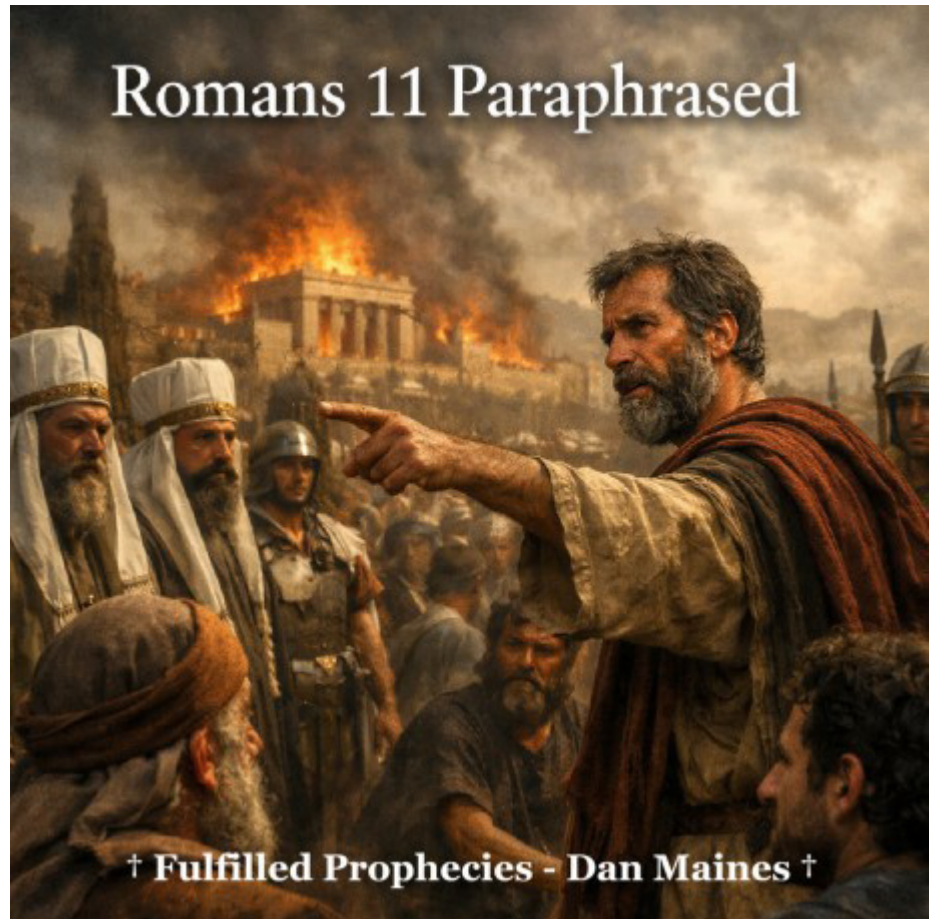
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Romans 11 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Romans 11 Paraphrased

Introduction

† God didn't abandon Israel, He preserved a remnant while bringing the nations in through Christ

† This chapter shows the fulfillment of covenant transition in that generation, not something future (Luke 21:22)

Romans 11:1

I ask then, God hasn't rejected His people, has He? Absolutely not. I'm an Israelite myself, from Abraham's line, from the tribe of Benjamin

† Paul proves God didn't cast off Israel completely, he himself stands as evidence (1 Kings 19:18)

† This is about a remnant, not total national acceptance

Romans 11:2

God hasn't rejected the people He chose beforehand. Don't you know what Scripture says about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel

† Foreknew speaks of covenant relationship, not simple awareness (Amos 3:2)

† Elijah's situation mirrors Paul's day, a small faithful group remained

Romans 11:3

Lord, they've killed Your prophets, torn down Your altars, and I'm the only one left, and they're trying to kill me

† Elijah thought he stood alone, but God had already preserved others

† Same pattern in the first century, truth wasn't with the majority

Romans 11:4

But what was God's reply? I've kept for Myself seven thousand men who haven't bowed to Baal

† God always keeps a remnant within Israel

† This continues into Paul's present time

Romans 11:5

In the same way, at this present time there is also a remnant chosen by grace

† Present time proves fulfillment in their generation

† Grace replaced law as the basis for belonging

Romans 11:6

But if it's by grace, it can't be based on works, otherwise grace wouldn't be grace

† Law and grace cannot operate together for justification

† The old covenant system was ending

Romans 11:7

What then? Israel didn't obtain what it was seeking, but those chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened

† National Israel failed, the elect remnant received it

† Hardening fulfilled prophecy (Isaiah 6:9-10)

Romans 11:8

Just as it is written, God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that couldn't see and ears that couldn't hear, to this very day

† This was judicial blindness on unbelieving Israel

† It explains their rejection of Christ

Romans 11:9

And David says, let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a repayment to them

† Their blessings became their downfall

† The law became a stumbling block

Romans 11:10

Let their eyes be darkened so they can't see, and bend their backs continually

† This describes covenant judgment

† Fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem

Romans 11:11

I say then, they didn't stumble so as to fall completely, did they? Absolutely not. Through their failure salvation has come to the nations, to provoke them to jealousy

† Their fall opened the door to the nations

† This was part of God's plan

Romans 11:12

Now if their failure means riches for the world and their loss means riches for the nations, how much more will their fullness mean

† Their fall produced blessing outward

† Fullness refers to completion of the plan in that generation

Romans 11:13

But I'm speaking to you from the nations. Since I'm an apostle to the nations, I honor my ministry

† Paul emphasizes Gentile inclusion

† The shift from Israel alone to all in Christ is clear

Romans 11:14

If somehow I might stir my fellow Jews to jealousy and save some of them

† Even during judgment, some Jews would believe

† The remnant continues

Romans 11:15

For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead

† Rejection opened reconciliation outward

† Life from the dead speaks of covenant change

Romans 11:16

If the first part of the dough is holy, the whole batch is, and if the root is holy, so are the branches

† The patriarchs are the root

† Covenant identity flows from them

Romans 11:17

But if some branches were broken off, and you, though a wild olive, were grafted in among them and share in the rich root

† Unbelieving Jews were removed

† Gentiles were brought into the same covenant tree

Romans 11:18

Don't be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember you don't support the root, the root supports you

† Gentiles are warned against pride

† The foundation remains Israel's promises fulfilled in Christ

Romans 11:19

You'll say then, branches were broken off so I could be grafted in

† True, but not for boasting

† This was God's plan unfolding

Romans 11:20

Correct, they were broken off because of unbelief, but you stand by faith. Don't be proud, but be in awe

† Faith determines standing, not ethnicity

† Warning against falling the same way

Romans 11:21

For if God didn't spare the natural branches, He won't spare you either

† Judgment is impartial

† No one stands apart from faith

Romans 11:22

See both the kindness and severity of God, severity toward those who fell, kindness toward you if you continue in it

† Both mercy and judgment are present

† Continuance matters

Romans 11:23

And they also, if they don't remain in unbelief, will be grafted back in, because God is able to do it

† Restoration was available

† Many Jews did come to faith

Romans 11:24

For if you were cut from a wild tree and grafted into a cultivated one, how much more will the natural branches be grafted back into their own tree

† Jews had rightful access if they believed

† The door was open during that time

Romans 11:25

I don't want you to be unaware, so you won't think too highly of yourselves, a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the nations comes in

† Partial means not total rejection

† Fullness occurred in that generation

Romans 11:26

And in this way all Israel will be saved, just as it is written, the Deliverer will come from Zion and remove ungodliness from Jacob

† All Israel refers to the completed remnant

† Fulfilled in Christ's finished work

Romans 11:27

This is My covenant with them when I take away their sins

† This is the new covenant promise fulfilled

† Sin removal completed through Christ

Romans 11:28

From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from God's choice they are loved because of the fathers

† They opposed the gospel but were tied to the promises

† God's plan remained consistent

Romans 11:29

For God's gifts and calling cannot be taken back

† God's promises are fulfilled, not canceled

† Fulfillment happened in Christ

Romans 11:30

Just as you were once disobedient but now have received mercy because of their disobedience

† The nations benefited from Israel's fall

† Mercy expanded outward

Romans 11:31

So they also have now been disobedient so that through the mercy shown to you they may also now receive mercy

† Both groups come into mercy

† One body is formed

Romans 11:32

For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all

† All were under sin

† Mercy is extended through Christ

Romans 11:33

Oh the depth of the riches of God's wisdom and knowledge, how unsearchable His judgments and beyond tracing His ways

† Paul praises God's plan

† Fulfillment reveals His wisdom

Romans 11:34

Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor

† No one directs God

† His plan stands perfect

Romans 11:35

Or who has given to Him first so it must be repaid

† Salvation is not earned

† It is given by grace

Romans 11:36

For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be glory forever. Amen

† God is the source and goal of all things

† Redemption is complete in Him

Historical References

† Josephus records the fall of Jerusalem confirming covenant judgment

† Irenaeus speaks of fulfillment of the law in Christ

† Eusebius documents the destruction of Jerusalem as a turning point

† Clement of Alexandria identifies true Israel as those in Christ

How It Applies To Us Today

† We're not under the old covenant, it's fulfilled and gone (Hebrews 8:13)

† Our identity is in Christ, not ethnicity (Galatians 3:28-29)

† We stand by grace, not works

† All promises of God are fulfilled in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20)

† We're living in completed redemption, not waiting for it

Q & A Appendix

Q What does all Israel will be saved mean

A It refers to the full remnant of believing Israel brought into Christ (Romans 9:6-8)

Q Has God rejected Israel

A No, He preserved a remnant and fulfilled His promises in Christ (Romans 11:1-5)

Q What is the olive tree

A It is the covenant people of God including Jews and Gentiles in Christ (Ephesians 2:14-16)

Q What is the fullness of the nations

A It is the completion of Gentile inclusion in that generation (Luke 21:32)

Q Are we still waiting for prophecy

A No, all was fulfilled in their generation (Matthew 24:34)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Romans 11

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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