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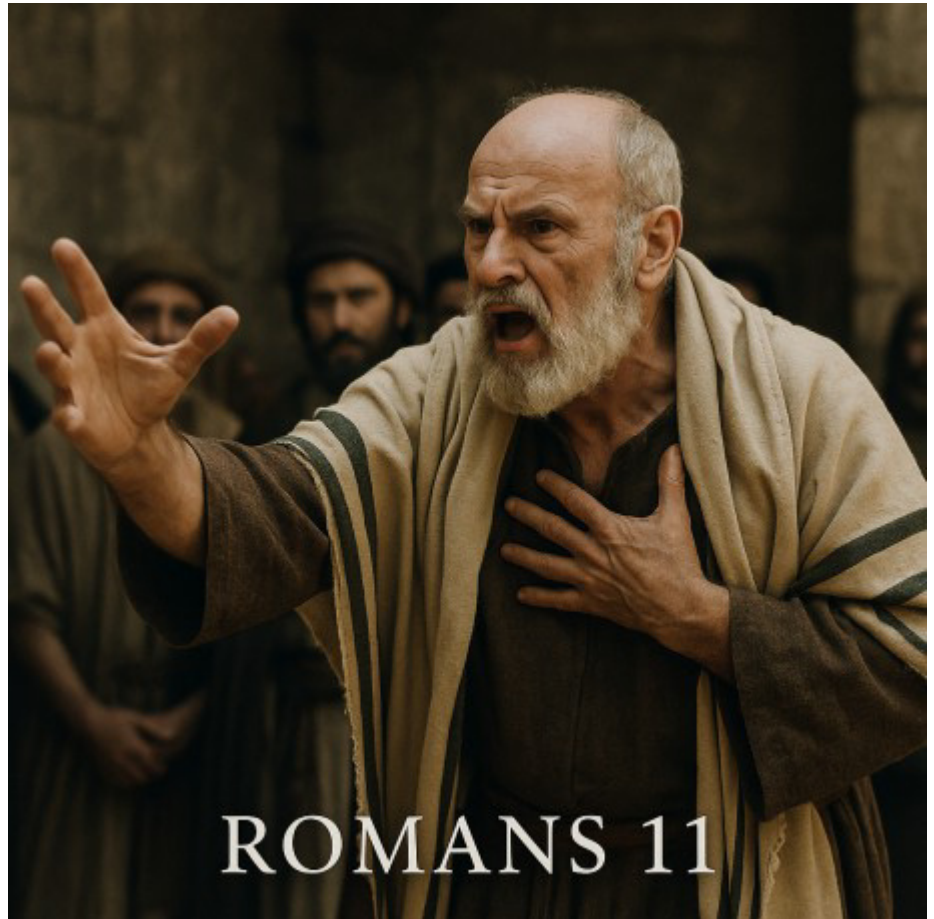
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Romans 11 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Romans 11

Romans 11:1

I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? Far from it! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

† Paul affirms that God has not totally rejected Israel. He himself is proof that a remnant remains.

† This continues the remnant principle seen throughout Israel's history. Elijah thought he was alone, but God preserved seven

thousand (1 Kings 19:18).

Romans 11:2-4

God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel? "Lord, they have killed Your prophets, they have torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life." But what is the divine response to him? "I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed a knee to Baal."

† Elijah's despair illustrates that even in times of mass apostasy, God preserves a faithful remnant.

† Josephus (Antiquities 8.13.5) records Israel's idolatry during Elijah's time, confirming the depth of apostasy, yet God's remnant endured.

Romans 11:5-6

In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious choice. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

† Just as in Elijah's day, there is now a remnant chosen by grace, not works. Salvation is covenantal, not merited.

Romans 11:7-8

What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; just as it is written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes to see not and ears to hear not, down to this very day."

† Israel sought righteousness by works and missed it. The elect remnant obtained it. The rest were hardened, as Isaiah 29:10 foretold.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QIsa) affirm Isaiah's words about Israel's blindness, which Paul applies to his generation.

Romans 11:9-10

And David says, "May their table become a snare and a trap, and a stumbling block and a retribution to them. May their eyes be darkened to see not, and bend their backs continually."

† Paul cites Psalm 69:22-23. Israel's blessings became their trap. Reliance on Law blinded them to Christ.

Romans 11:11-12

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? Far from it! But by their wrongdoing salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. Now if their wrongdoing proves to be riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!

† Israel's stumbling opened the door for Gentiles. Their jealousy would provoke some to faith.

† This fulfills Deuteronomy 32:21, where God promised to provoke Israel with a foolish nation.

Romans 11:13-14

But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Therefore insofar as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if somehow I may move my own people to jealousy and save some of them.

† Paul magnifies his ministry to Gentiles, hoping it will provoke some Jews to faith.

Romans 11:15

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

† Israel's rejection reconciled the nations. Their acceptance would mean covenant resurrection, life from the dead.

Romans 11:16

If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

† The root of Israel is holy, the patriarchs. But holiness is only preserved by faith.

Romans 11:17-18

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

† Gentiles are grafted into Israel's covenant root. Broken branches are unbelieving Jews. Gentiles must not boast.

Romans 11:19-20

You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear.

† Gentiles are warned not to boast. They stand only by faith.

Romans 11:21-22

for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. See then the kindness and severity of God: to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; for otherwise you too will be cut off.

† Both Jew and Gentile must continue in faith. God's covenant kindness and severity are impartial.

Romans 11:23-24

And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?

† Restoration is possible for Jews if they believe. The door is open.

Romans 11:25-27

For I do not want you, brothers and sisters, to be uninformed of this mystery, so that you will not be wise in your own estimation, that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written: "The Deliverer will come from Zion, He will remove ungodliness from Jacob." "This is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins."

† A mystery is revealed. Israel's hardening was partial until the Gentiles came in. "All Israel" refers to the covenant body, Jew and Gentile together in Christ.

† Isaiah 59:20-21 is fulfilled in Christ, who removed ungodliness from Jacob.

Romans 11:28-29

In relation to the gospel they are enemies on your account, but in relation to God's choice they are beloved on account of the fathers, for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

† Though many Jews opposed the gospel, God's covenant promises to the patriarchs were not nullified. Fulfillment came through Christ.

Romans 11:30-32

For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience, so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy. For God has shut up all in disobedience, so that He may show mercy to all.

† Jew and Gentile alike were disobedient, so that mercy might be extended to all.

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? Or who has first given to Him, that it would be paid back to him? For from Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.

† Paul concludes with doxology. God's wisdom and covenant plan surpass human comprehension.

† The early church fathers often paused in awe at this passage, seeing it as the summit of Paul's theology.

How it applies to us today

† God always preserves a faithful remnant. We must not despair when many reject Christ.

† Jew and Gentile stand only by faith. There is no room for arrogance or presumption.

† God's plan is merciful. He shut up all under disobedience so that He might show mercy to all.

† Our response must be worship, acknowledging the depth of His wisdom and grace.

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

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