

The Heart of the Matter

Lesson 15

Romans 11

Bible Text New International Version	Observations What does the text say?	Interpretation & Questions What does it mean to all Christians?	Applications What does it mean to me?
<p>Romans 11:1-10</p> <p>The Remnant of Israel</p> <p>11 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³ "Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me"^[a]? ⁴ And what was God's answer to him? "I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal."^[b] ⁵ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶ And if by grace, then it cannot be based on works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.</p> <p>⁷ What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The elect among them did, but the others were hardened, ⁸ as it is written:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">"God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see and ears that could not hear, to this very day."^[c]</p> <p>⁹ And David says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">"May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them.</p>			

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¹⁰ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever." ^[d]			
Footnotes: a. Romans 11:3 1 Kings 19:10,14 b. Romans 11:4 1 Kings 19:18 c. Romans 11:8 Deut. 29:4; Isaiah 29:10 d. Romans 11:10 Psalm 69:22,23			
Summary: 			
Romans 11:11-24 Ingrafted Branches ¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. ¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring! ¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection			

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<p>brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.</p> <p>¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not consider yourself to be superior to those other branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in." ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but tremble. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.</p> <p>²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature, and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!</p>			

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Summary:			
<p>Romans 11:25-36</p> <p>All Israel Will Be Saved</p> <p>²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers and sisters, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in, ²⁶ and in this way^[e] all Israel will be saved. As it is written:</p> <p>“The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob. ²⁷ And this is^[f] my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”^[g]</p> <p>²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies for your sake; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God’s gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now^[h] receive mercy as a result of God’s mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.</p>			

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<p>Doxology</p> <p>³³ Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and^[j] knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! ³⁴ “Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?”^[j] ³⁵ “Who has ever given to God, that God should repay them?”^[k] ³⁶ For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.</p>			
<p>Footnotes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Romans 11:26 Or <i>and so</i> f. Romans 11:27 Or <i>will be</i> g. Romans 11:27 Isaiah 59:20,21; 27:9 (see Septuagint); Jer. 31:33,34 h. Romans 11:31 Some manuscripts do not have <i>now</i>. i. Romans 11:33 Or <i>riches and the wisdom and the</i> j. Romans 11:34 Isaiah 40:13 k. Romans 11:35 Job 41:11 			
<p>Summary:</p>			

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Mercy and Grace

Scriptures:

Lam. 3:22-23

Joel 2:13

2 Sam. 24:14

Eph. 2:4-9

Questions:

What makes you feel “bathed in grace”?

Describe a time when you had an abundance of grace and mercy extended to you by God or another person, or tell about a time when you intentionally extended grace to someone.

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Lecture Notes
