

Romans 11

Introduction.

A. Chapters 1-8: all have sinned and all can be saved.

1. The grace of God.
2. Through faith.

B. Chapters 9-11: what about Israel?

1. Israel past (9).
2. Israel present (10).
3. Israel future (11).

I. The remnant of Jewish believers (1-10).

A. God has always held to himself a faithful remnant.

1. Paul himself as an example of hardness and mercy.
(cf. 1 Sam. 12:22; Jer. 31:37)
2. The early Church was composed of Jews.
3. The example of Elijah (1 Ki. 19).
 - a. "To myself."
 - b. But only a small percentage of all Israel.

B. The remnant have always been saved by grace.

1. Not by works.
2. Always by faith.

C. Those who rejected God's grace were confirmed in their sin.

D. Differentiation.

1. Israel and the 7000.
2. The mass and the remnant.
3. The hardened and the elect.

II. Salvation for the Gentiles (11-24).

A. Israel is not beyond recovery.

1. Salvation to the Gentiles.

- a. Israel's stumbling opened the door for salvation to the Gentiles.
- b. The transgression was the rejection of their Messiah.
(cf. Mt. 21:33ff.)

2. To show Israel God's great grace.

3. Israel can expect even greater blessing (13-16).

- a. First fruits represent all.
- b. Rejection promotes salvation.

B. The olive branches.

1. Israel is the cultivated olive tree – God's basic plan.

2. Gentiles are the branches of the wild olive tree.

- a. Excludes boasting.
- b. Are given life by the root of the cultivated tree.

3. No place for boasting.

- a. Broken off for unbelief.
- b. Grafted in because of faith.
- c. We can only boast about God's grace.
- d. The Church did not replace Israel.

C. No middle ground (22-24).

1. Kindness of God to those who believe.

2. Sternness of God to those who do not believe.

D. God will graft Israel back in because of their belief.

III. Salvation of Israel (25-32).

A. "Not ignorant" draws attention to what is to be said.

(cf. Ro.1:13; 1 Co.10:1; 1 Co.12:1; 2 Co.1:8; 1 Th.4:13)

B. A mystery of God.

1. Word study.

a. Used by Paul 21 times.

b. Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich: "knowledge too profound for human ingenuity,..."

2. Israel's hardening opened the door to the Gentiles.

3. At the right time, Israel will turn back to God (cf. Ro.5:6).

4. Fullness: both number and blessings.

C. Israel loved by God.

1. Irrevocable promises of God.

2. God is faithful even if we are not.

3. Israel will receive God's mercy.

D. All are sinners and all can experience God's mercy.

IV. Doxology (33-36).

A. Paul is overwhelmed by the depth of God's mercy.

B. God's wisdom is beyond our understanding

C. God is sovereign over all.

D. All for the glory of God.