

Romans 11

Introduction:

Genesis 17:1-8 Everlasting Covenant, Everlasting Possession Sin has consequences. Israel has spent more time out of that land than in it, and more time ruled by others than ruling themselves.

God isn't finished with Israel and He still isn't finished with you.

- I. God has always worked through Israel's faithful remnant 11:1-10
- II. Israel has been set aside, but they can still be brought back. 11:11-24
- III. God still has plans for Israel that remain to be fulfilled. 11:25-36

- I. God has always worked through Israel's faithful remnant 11:1-10

A. 11:1 Not totally and not finally. Paul himself is a Jew.

1 Samuel 12:22 (NKJV) For the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you His people.

Psalms 94:14 (NKJV) For the LORD will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

B. In past times of Israel's unfaithfulness, God always left Israel a remnant.

- i. In the days of King Ahab and Queen Jezebel, Elijah had a huge confrontation with the prophets of the god Baal, after which Jezebel wanted to kill him. He ran away and ended up in cave on Mt. Horeb, where Moses first received the Ten Commandments.

Elijah had thought he was the only servant of the Lord left in the whole country. God knew 7000 more who still remained faithful to him. There is always a faithful remnant within Israel. Paul and the other apostles were all Jewish. There are still many Jewish believers today. These are the faithful remnant. In v.7 they are called *the elect*.

- Have you ever felt like you were all alone as a Christian? Maybe, like Elijah, you've had trouble finding another servant of the Lord at your job, in school or within your own family and this has caused you to begin to despair. You're not alone. God wants to connect you with other believers. Ask him to lead you to others. You can start right here in this church. A Christian who is disconnected from a church is like a body part disconnected from a body.

God isn't finished with Israel and He still isn't finished with you.

- II. Israel has been set aside, but they can still be brought back. 11:11-24

A. 11:11 Disobedience has its consequences. At the national level, Israel rejected their Savior and for the moment they have been set aside. You'll recall from the book of Acts that the Gospel first went out to the Gentiles due to rejection and persecution by the Jews.

Among the nations is where God is still mostly working.

- i. By the year 2050, 29% of the world's Christians will be African, 20% will be Asian, and 12% North American. ([Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Info from Gordon-Conwell Seminary](#))

B. 11:12, 15 *fullness* = completion If the Gentiles are blessed now, just wait until Israel returns to the Lord. We haven't seen spiritual blessing yet.

C. 12:17-21 No nation has an automatic stake in God's blessings. We're just wild olive branches that have been grafted into the covenant promises due to Israel's unbelief. God does not have to keep using us. We only stand by faith.

D. The largely Gentile church only stands by faith. God is able to graft Israel back in again. All they have to do is believe.

God isn't finished with Israel and He still isn't finished with you.

III. God still has plans for Israel that remain to be fulfilled. 11:25-36

A. Israel blindness is partial. God still has a remnant of faithful Jews.

B. Israel's blindness is temporary, the time will come when He will use them again.

- i. He's waiting for the fullness of the Gentiles to come in to complete the church.
- ii. During the Tribulation the Jews will be His primary instrument.
 - a) See Rev 7. First 144,000 of Israel, then innumerable Gentiles. Cf vv.12 & 15.
- iii. 11:26 Israel will enter the Millennium as a believing nation.

All Israel—All the Jews. It was a maxim among the Jews that “every Israelite should have part in the future age.” (Grotius.) The apostle applies that maxim to his own purpose; and declares the sense in which it would be true. He does not mean to say that every Jew of every age would be saved; for he had proved that a large portion of them would be, in his time, rejected and lost. But the time would come when, as a people, they would be recovered; when the nation would turn to God; and when it could be said of them that, as a nation, they were restored to the divine favor. It is not clear that he means that even then every individual of them would be saved, but the body of them; the great mass of the nation would be. Nor is it said when this would be. This is one of the things which “the Father hath put in his own power;” Acts 1:7. He has given us the assurance that it shall be done to encourage us in our efforts to save them; and he has concealed the time when it shall be, lest we should relax our efforts, or feel that no exertions were needed to accomplish what must take place at a fixed time. (Barnes' Notes)

C. Verse 29 is a key verse regarding Israel, but it's also a key verse for us.

Romans 8:29 (NLT) God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn.

God is not sorry for his gifts to and calling of the Jews. (A. T. Robertson)

God isn't finished with Israel and He still isn't finished with you.

Conclusions:

- Q: Why would the devil want people to think that God is done with Israel?
- Q: Why would the devil want people to hate Israel?
- Q: Why does he want to see Israel destroyed?

- A: Because God has made wonderful promises to Israel and he would just love to see those promises go unfulfilled.
 - It would prove that God's word was not true.
 - It would prove that God could not be relied upon – that He was not trustworthy, or not worthy of our trust or faith.
 - It would give you the right to think that since God gave up on Israel, His elect, His chosen, His beloved, then just maybe, He would also give up on you.

God isn't finished with Israel and He still isn't finished with you.

- As it stands however, you and I don;t have the right to think that, to ever believe that God has given up on us, to believe that He might no longer desire to use us.
 - Consider Moses, who murdered the Egyptian.
 - Consider David, who took Uriah's wife and then had Uriah killed.
 - Consider Peter who denied His Lord three times in one night just when the going got tough.
 - Consider John Mark, who accompanied Paul and Barnabas on that first missionary trip, but then later turned tail and ran home.
- Did God give up on any of them? No.
- It doesn't matter where you've been or what you've done. It doesn't matter how faithful or unfaithful you have been. God still has a plan for you and He still desires to use you. All you need to do is submit to His will for your life. If you have not done so before, then do so now.
- Don't give up on God; don't imagine that He's given up on you, but rather, give yourself over more completely to Him.

God isn't finished with Israel and He still isn't finished with you.

Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV) ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ²And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.