

God's Promised Dealings With Israel

By Joe Stone

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Romans 11: 1-36

- I. The Fairness of God's Dealings with Israel. (11:1-10)
 - A. Paul cites Himself as an Example. (11: 1-1) I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
 - B. Paul Cites History as an Example. (11: 2-10)
 1. God's Dealings with the Believing Minority (11: 2-6)

²God 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? ³"Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE." ⁴But what is the divine response to him? "I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL." ⁵In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to *God's* gracious choice. ⁶But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.
 2. God's Dealings with the Blinded Majority. (11: 7-10)

⁷What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; ⁸just 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." ⁹And David says, "LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP, AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM. ¹⁰"LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER."
- II. The Farsightedness of God's Dealings with Israel. (11: 11-29)
 - A. God Acts Disapprovingly. (11:11-22)
 1. But with the Prospective Restoration of Israel in Mind. (11: 11-16)

I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation *has come* to the Gentiles, to make them jealous. ¹²Now if their transgression is riches for the world and their failure is riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be! ¹³But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them. ¹⁵For if their

rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will *their* acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the first piece *of dough* is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

2. And with the Present Redemption of the Gentiles in Mind. (11: 17-22)
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, ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”²⁰ Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;²¹ for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not spare you, either. ²² Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God’s kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

B. God Acts Dispensationally. (11:23-29)

1. It is Within the Power of God to Restore Israel. (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. ²⁴ For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these who are the natural *branches* be grafted into their own olive tree?
2. It is Within the Purpose of God to Restore Israel (11:25-29)
 - a. His Constitutional Guarantee. (11: 25) For I do not want you, brethren, 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;
 - b. His Christological Guarantee. (11:26)
²⁶ and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.
 - c. His Contractual Agreement. (11:27-29)
“THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.” ²⁸ From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of *God’s* choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; ²⁹ for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

III. The Faithfulness of God’s Dealings with Israel. (11: 30-36)

A. The Mercy of God’s Ways (11:30-32)

1. His Mercy to the Gentiles (11:30)

³⁰For just as you once were disobedient to God, but now have been shown mercy because of their disobedience,

2. His Mercy to the Jews (11:31)

³¹so these also now have been disobedient, that because of the mercy shown to you they also may now be shown mercy.

3. His Mercy to the World (11:32)

³²For God has shut up all in disobedience so that He may show mercy to all.

B. The Majesty of God's Ways (11:33-36)

1. Beyond all Human Inferences (11:33-35)

³³Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? ³⁵Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN?

2. Beyond All Human Interferences (11:36)

³⁶For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the Glory forever. Amen.

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