

Lesson 19 - Romans 11:1-24

PART 2: JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH IN THE GOSPEL 1:16 - 11:36

COMMENTS ON ROMANS 11:1-24

Israel's Rejection Not Total - The Parable of the two Olive Trees

- 1 I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**
- 2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,**
- 3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.**
- 4 But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.**
- 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**
- 6 And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.**
- 7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded**
- 8 (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.**
- 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:**
- 10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.**

In Romans 10 Paul is showing that the Gentiles were to come into God's favor and the Jews were to be rejected. In this chapter he points out that not all Jews will be rejected but only those who reject Christ. All Israel was not cast off because Paul himself was an Israelite and an apostle of Jesus Christ.

v.2 The verb here know means to recognize or accept. It does not mean that God knew or accepted certain people before they were born. His language refers to those He accepted as His people under the former dispensation - that is, the obedient Jew. He uses the complaint of Elijah and God's answer to him to prove this point. Although most of the Israelites had forsaken Jehovah and were not acceptable to Him, there were yet, "seven thousand" whom He could and did accept. Paul is telling us that there had always been some of Israel acceptable to Jehovah. The foreknowing refers to the promise made to Abraham in Genes 12:2

V.5 is a reference to those Jews who had accepted Christ.

V. 6 The salvation offered in Christ is by grace and not by the works of the Old Testament law. If one earned or merited salvation it would not be by grace. No matter how many commands must be obeyed or conditions must be met, the forgiveness is yet a matter of grace. There is nothing that a sinner can do merits salvation. Naaman's healing of leprosy was a matter of grace though he had dipped seven times in the river Jordan. The opening of the blind man's eyes in John 9 was a matter of grace though he had to wash in the Pool of Siloam.

V. 7 The term "elect" is a term applied to all believers. God has elected character, but he has not elected certain individuals to be saved 2 Peter 1:10.

v.8 Notice Isaiah 29:10

v.9 Notice Psalm 69:22 A prediction applied to the enemies of Christ.

10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway.

Statement of the Principle That Regulates the Election of Grace

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

15 For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

Have they stumbled that they should fall? Paul shows that God cast off Israel, but that all Jews who would believe in Christ could be saved. The rejection of the gospel by the Jews accelerated the preaching among the Gentiles. Paul doesn't teach that there will ever be a wholesale conversion of the Jews, but that Jews are converted individually like Gentiles.

16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

Check out Numbers 15:18-21

17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

Here the heirs of the promise made to Abraham are referred to as an olive tree. The Jews the natural branches of this olive tree, "were broken off" by unbelief. Gentiles by their obedience were grafted in. Galatians 3:26-29.

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

The Gentiles "grafted in" have no occasion for being prejudiced against the Jews.

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

God's severity is shown in breaking off those who will not believe, and His goodness is shown in saving anyone, Jews or Gentile, who will believe the truth.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR ROMANS 11:1-24

I. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS GIVING SCRIPTURE REFERENCES.

1. What examples does Paul us to show that God has not cast off Israel? _____

2. What has Israel not obtained? _____

3. What is Paul's meaning in 11:8? _____

4. In what sense does God foreknow his people? _____

5. What did Israel seek that they failed to obtain? Why did they fail? _____

6. Who was the wild olive tree? _____
7. What is the meaning of "first fruits" or "lump"? _____

8. Why couldn't the Gentile boast? _____

9. Does the alien Jew have an advantage over an alien Gentile today? _____

10. __ How does 10:24 show that God will save the Jews who no longer rebel? _____

II. DEFINE THESE TERMS:

1. Provoke _____

2. Jealousy _____

3. Foreknew _____

4. Remnant _____

5. Grafting _____

III. RESEARCH

Where is it spoken about branches being pruned and burned? What is the lesson of this reference?

IV. THOUGHT QUESTION

Explain the grafting process as it relates to the Jews and Gentiles? _____
