

THE GOSPEL OF GRACE
A Study in the Book of Romans

God's Plan for Israel and the Gentiles

Romans 11:1–24

"So too, at the present time, there is a remnant chosen by grace." Romans 11:5

Read Romans 11:1–10.

1. With what question does Paul open this passage? What has led Paul to ask this question? (10:16)
2. How does he answer his question? (📖 1 Sam. 12:22; Ps. 94:14)

What "evidence" does he give to back up his answer? (vv. 1b, 2b–4)

3. On what basis is the remnant chosen? (vv. 5–6)
4. What did Israel seek, and why was it unable to obtain it? (9:30–32)

In what ways are you prone to fall into the same trap?

Read Romans 11:5–10.

5. Into what two groups is "Israel" divided? (v. 7)
6. How do the Old Testament verses Paul quotes describe the hardening of those who are not elect? (vv. 8–10; 1:21–22)
7. Reading this passage, some might question the fairness of God's choosing some and hardening others. How did Paul answer this kind of objection in 9:18–24?
8. Look at Matthew 13:11–17 and pay special attention to the way Jesus closes the Old Testament quotation. Take a moment to reflect on how blessed you are that you "see" and "hear," and give thanks to God for that blessing. Then pray for someone whose eyes need opening by God.

Read Romans 11:11–21.

9. What is the second main question Paul asks in this passage? (v. 11)

How does he answer it?

10. In these verses Paul describes the progression of God's plan of salvation.

- a. How does Israel respond to Christ? (v. 20a)
- b. How do the Gentiles benefit from Israel's response? (vv. 11b, 12, 15a)
- c. What is the result of the Gentiles' belief for the Israelites? (vv. 11b, 14)
- d. What will be the final outcome for all of God's people? (vv. 12b, 15b)

11. Review Paul's metaphor of the olive tree. What do the following represent?

- a. the olive tree: _____
- b. the root (v. 28b): _____
- c. the natural branches: _____
- d. the wild branches: _____
- e. breaking branches off: _____
- f. grafting branches in: _____

Read Romans 11:17-24.

12. What attitude is Paul warning Gentile believers against in this passage?

Why might they be tempted to have such an attitude?

13. Why is such boasting inappropriate? (vv. 20-21; 3:27-28)

How might such an arrogant, boastful spirit threaten the Gentiles' place in the people of God?

14. Considering the context, what do you think Paul means when he says "be afraid (tremble)"? (Matt. 10:28)

15. Consider when you have felt arrogance in your own heart. How did it affect your relationship with God?

16. In addition to the warning for the Gentile believers in Rome, what hope does this passage contain for unbelieving Israelites? (vv. 23-24)