

## **ROMANS 11:1-36: God's Faithfulness to Israel**

### **I. Introduction**

Apostle Paul begins this chapter with a fundamental question that sets the stage for the discussion on “election by grace”. He asks “Did God reject Israel?”. The answer clearly being no, he then explains that just as in the days of Elijah, God always reserves a remnant of his children, but not based off of works, simply by His own grace that qualified them to be saved. The verses that follow describe how the majority of Israel has failed to obtain this favor because they attempted it through works, while the elect obtained this unmerited favor simply through election by God.

Apostle Paul uses Old Testament references to explain how Israel was placed in a deep sleep due to their inability to receive and accept Christ and His message and as a result, salvation came to the Gentiles. He further presses on the idea that if Israel's rejection of God could lead to salvation of the Gentiles- how much more so will their acceptance of grace lead to the salvation of many more. Apostle Paul urges the Gentiles to remain humble in their status as branches that were grafted into the root (Christ). He explains the universality of God's love and His ability to graft in whosoever believes in and accepts the Gospel of Jesus Christ, whether Jew or Gentile.

In verse 32, Apostle Paul declares that ““For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.” This is the key point of this chapter as it points the reader to the mercy of God being the prevailing factor that allows everyone to be saved regardless of background. He explains how God uses the rebellion of one group to magnify His mercy to another group and the same occurs again if the opposite occurs. Therefore God has this master plan to save all, using methods that may not be fully discernible to man. He ends the chapter majestically by declaring ““For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.” So as to say, as man has ultimate roots in God Himself, His desire is that all be saved and reconciled back to Him.

### **II. Study the Scriptures: Read the Passage Romans 11:1-36**

Note your thoughts as you read:

Write down any questions that come to mind as you read:

### **III. Think Through the Following Questions:**

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1. What was the significance of Apostle Paul referencing Elijah's complaint against the Israelites in 1 King 19?
2. What were the Israelites earnestly seeking after according to verse 7 of this chapter?
3. What does Apostle Paul mean when he says God's plan was to make Israel jealous?
4. Why were the Gentiles warned against becoming arrogant, and what does that mean to today's Believer?
5. What role does mercy play in the life of a Believer and Unbeliever according to this scripture?
6. Discuss the significance of how Apostle Paul ended this chapter in the last 4 verses.
7. After going through chapters 9-11, at this point what can you say is the meaning of election by grace as it pertains to the Jews and the Gentiles (aka today's Believers and Unbelievers)?

**IV. Lessons Learned: Are there any new things you learned from this passage today?**

**V. Application: How Do You think this will impact your thinking and/or actions going forward?**