

Romans

How to be a Christian without Being Religious!

Lesson 11

Romans 11:1-36

God is Not Through with Israel

1. Read Romans 11:1-6. Has God rejected Israel? Who does Paul use as proof of this? Read Jeremiah 31:31-33. What did Jeremiah foresee happening in the future that would usher in this “new covenant” (John 14:16-17; Acts 1-2)?
2. According to verse 2, what reason does Paul give for God not rejecting His people? This word, *foreknew*, comes from the Greek word, *proginosko*. According to Dr. John MacArthur, it does not simply mean to be aware of something beforehand but to determine that it will come to pass. God’s foreknowledge is frequently used of His intimate, loving relationship with all those He called to Himself “before the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:4).⁶ God’s predetermined plan and His foreknowledge are equated. Read I Peter 1:1-2. What does the term, “foreknowledge,” mean to you?
3. Paul next used a story from Scripture found in I Kings 19:10-18 concerning Elijah to prove that God has not rejected Israel. What does God always reserve for Himself according to verse 4? What has God reserved for Himself among the physical descendants of Abraham (the Jews) today? Can you think of some examples of believing Jews?
4. What does Paul again remind His readers of as to the way of salvation (v. 6)?
5. Read Romans 11:7-10. What was Israel seeking? Read John 3:1-16. What was Nicodemus seeking? How had he been misguided? What did Jesus tell him that he needed?
6. Who are the elect (Eph. 1:4, 11; I Peter 1:1-2)? What have they obtained? How did they obtain it? What happened to those who did not obtain salvation according to verses 7-9?
7. In verse 9, Paul quotes David (Psalm 69:22-23). “May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent forever.” Dr. MarArthur states, “A person’s table is generally thought of as a place of safety, feasting, and sustenance. The Jews considered God’s

⁶ Ibid. 99-100.

Word, in particular the Torah, to be their spiritual sustenance—which indeed it was. But because of their rebellious unbelief, that Word became a judgment on them, a stumbling block.”⁷ Warren Wiersbe states, “This is what happened to Israel: their spiritual blessings should have led them to Christ, but instead they became a snare that kept them from Christ. Their very religious substitutes and observances became substitutes for the real experience of salvation.”⁸ How is the same mistake made today by people who depend on religious rituals and practices (Isaiah 29:13; Matthew 15:8-9; and, John 5:39)?

8. What happens to someone’s heart who continually hears the Gospel but rejects it (Matthew 15:8-9)?
9. Read Romans 11:11-16. What caused the Gospel to move from Israel to the Gentiles? What is God’s purpose in bringing the Gospel to the Gentiles?
10. Read verse 16 again. The *firstfruits* and *root* apparently refer to the patriarchs of Israel: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. With that understanding, what is Paul attempting to convey to his readers about the descendants of Abraham, the *batch (lump)* and *branches*? What does the word, holy, mean?
11. Read Romans 11:17-21. What do you think Paul means when he states some of the branches have been “broken off?” (Hint: Hebrews 11 is about the nation of Israel not the church.) Who are the “wild olive shoots?” Adoption is depicted by what word?
12. What causes the natural branches to be broken off? What results in the wild branches being grafted in? (See verse 20) What should be the attitude of those who realize they have been grafted in?
13. Read Romans 11:22-24. (Note: The Bible makes it clear that a person cannot lose his salvation. Once saved, always saved. Also, in verses 18-21, according to Warren Wiersbe, “Paul is discussing the Gentiles collectively, and not the individual experience of one believer or another.”⁹) So, considering this note could and might God “cut off” the Gentile church just as He did the nation of Israel? What would the church have to do to avoid being cut off according to verse 22? Do you think this will ever happen (II Timothy 3; 4:3-4)?

⁷ Ibid. 103.

⁸ Wiersbe, 551.

⁹ Ibid. 552.

14. Read Romans 11:25-36. What do you think the mystery is concerning Israel that Paul alludes to in verse 25? Has Israel's hardening been in part or in full? Explain? In verse 26, Paul says that "all Israel will be saved!" What do you think he means and when do you think this will take place? (Hint: "When this present age has run its course, and the fullness of Gentiles has come in, then God will once more deal with the nation of Israel," according to Warren Wiersbe.) Read Zechariah 12, 13, and 14 and Acts 15:12-18.

15. What makes the Jews God's enemies, according to verse 28? (Note: This situation is only temporary.) But, what brings them back? What guarantees this (vv. 29-31)?

16. Why did God allow man to fall into sin according to verse 32?

17. Reread verses 32-36. As Paul considers God's wisdom, knowledge, purpose and plan, how does he conclude this chapter?