




ROMANS: A FIRM FOUNDATION

Great is Thy Faithfulness
Romans 11




PRESENT TENSE ISRAEL (1-10)

11 I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars; I am the only one left, and they are trying to kill me”? ⁴ And what was God's answer to him? “I have reserved for myself seven thousand



who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”⁵ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.⁶ And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.⁷ What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened,⁸ as it is written:



“God gave them a spirit of stupor,
eyes so that they could not see
and ears so that they could not hear,
to this very day.”


⁹ And David says:

“May their table become a snare and a trap,
a stumbling block and a retribution for them.

¹⁰ May their eyes be darkened so they cannot
see, and their backs be bent forever.”

FUTURE TENSE ISRAEL (11:11-32)


- 1) Jewish transgression
- 2) Opens the way for Gentile salvation
- 3) Which leads in the end to Jewish salvation
- 4) Culminates in greater riches and life from death (v.26)



¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. ¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!

- Their failure led to our inclusion (blessing)

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I make much of my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.




¹⁷ If some of the branches have been broken off, and you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸ do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” ²⁰ Granted. But they were broken off because of unbelief, and you stand by faith. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. ²¹ For if God




did not spare the natural branches, he will not spare you either.

²² Consider therefore the kindness and sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but kindness to you, provided that you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you also will be cut off. ²³ And if they do not persist in unbelief, they will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ After all, if you were cut out of an olive tree that is wild by nature,




and contrary to nature were grafted into a cultivated olive tree, how much more readily will these, the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree!

²⁵ I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:



“The deliverer will come from Zion;
he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.
²⁷ And this is my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”



²⁸ As far as the gospel is concerned, they are enemies on your account; but as far as election is concerned, they are loved on account of the patriarchs, ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you.




³² For God has bound all men over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

- 1) Arouse envy (v.13)
- 2) Eliminate boasting (v. 18)
- 3) Balance kindness and Sternness of God (v. 22)
- 4) Avoid ignorance and embrace mystery (v.25)



PRAISE TO GOD



33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

How unsearchable his judgments,
and his paths beyond tracing out!

34 “Who has known the mind of the Lord?



Or who has been his counselor?”

³⁵ “Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay him?”

³⁶ For from him and through him and to him are all
things.

To him be the glory forever! Amen.



TO GO

Is there anything in you or us that would cause others (Jew or gentile) to envy?

Do you fear God? Why would Paul call us to fear God, even in the light of grace (v.20)

Why do we tend to minimize the “mystery” that is found in God and his working (v.25)?