Lesson 27 – Romans 11:1-12 Gentile Believers Join the Jewish Remnant
English Standard Version (ESV) Bethel Bible Resources

(1) I ask, then, has God rejected His people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?

(3) "Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left --- and they seek my life!" (1 Kings 19:10, 14)

(4) But what is God's reply to him?

"I have kept for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." (1 Kings 19:18)

(5) So, too, at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise, grace would no longer be grace.

(7) What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened, as it is written,

"God gave them a stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day." (Isaiah 29:10 and Deuteronomy 29:4)

(9) And David says,

"Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a retribution for them; Let their eyes be darkened so that they cannot see, and bend their backs forever." (Psalm 69:22,23)

(11) So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

<u>Think on These Things</u>

1) The question of verse 1 is very important. The Jews are God's "chosen people," but they have also misbehaved and rejected God continuously over the generations. For these reasons, has God given up on them? The unstated implication is this, "If He has, will God also give up on me if I continually disobey and walk apart from Him?" What is Paul's answer?

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2) Skim 1 Kings 17:1 through 19:18. This is the background story of Elijah referred to in verses 2-3 of our passage. What is the significant spiritual victory that precedes Elijah's depression? What was said that shifted his emotional "high" to an emotional "low"? Can you understand why he is so angry as he stands before God complaining? What's his conclusion?

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3) Vs. 4-6 introduce an important concept: God preserves a "remnant" of the faithful. Here in this passage it pertains to whom? What about today? See what Jesus says in Matthew 7:13.

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4) Can you see the concept of a remnant being applied to the Christian church today? Explain.

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5) Israel is always considered the "chosen" of God. The "elect" is a term used for God's Christian church, the Body of Christ. (Election can sometimes be used of Israel, but, here, it clearly is differentiated between chosen and elect.) How are the modern "elect" selected by God (v.6)?

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6) The elect is receiving today what God offered the Jews. God aims to provoke them to jealousy (v.11), something we addressed in a previous lesson. Looking at verses 7-10, how would you describe the Jew's situation of faith today? Who or what has caused this? What don't they get?

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7) Is God's current plan to ruin the Jews? According to v.11, what is the result of Israel's falling away from God? If this is so, what do you think is the answer to v.12? The key principle to understand is that God's original plan, promised to Abraham, is not forgotten or revoked. His chosen people are still very dear to Him, and He will fulfil His promise to exalt them.

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People and situations I want to pray for this week: