

God Has Been Faithful to His Promises (The Olive Tree) – Romans 11

- I. God has kept his promise to Israel (Romans 11:1-7)
 - a. God has not rejected his people (1-2a)
 - i. Paul is a Jew and not rejected (2a)
 - ii. Paul implies that salvation has come to the Jews for He himself is saved. The promises are fulfilled in Jesus Christ, therefore God has not forgotten His people
 - iii. Jesus Christ is God's perfect Israel and Paul is "in Him"
 - b. God's People have always been a remnant within the Jews (2b-6)
 - i. God has always kept a remnant (2b-4)
 - 1. Paul uses the Example of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:10
 - 2. Elijah complained that Israel rejected God (2b-3)
 - a. Elijah was in despair because God's people had all forsaken Him
 - 3. God, however, reserved a remnant (4)
 - a. Even though Elijah thought that he was the last person alive serving God, God told Him that He still had a remnant within the people
 - 4. Paul claims that there has always been a remnant of God's people within national Israel. This is still the case. The remnant of Israel are those Jews who trust in Christ
 - ii. God's remnant is found in the gospel of Grace (5-7)
 - 1. Even now God has reserved a Remnant by Grace (5-6)
 - 2. The remnant (Jews who believe in Christ) have obtained what the rest of Israel rejected (7)
 - a. The remnant have inherited the fulfillment of the promises, the rest have broken the covenant
 - 3. So God has not rejected His people – He has fulfilled the promises in Christ.
 - 4. *NOTICE: Paul is not saying that the Church has REPLACED Israel. Paul is saying that the Church (in Christ) is the fulfillment of what Israel was always meant to be.*
- II. The Destiny of the Jews is in God's Purpose (8-15) – For Paul's audience, this shouldn't really come as a shock. The Old Testament foretells it.
 - a. The Jews rejection was foretold (8-10)
 - i. Isaiah said, God gave them a spirit of Stupor (8) (Deut 29:4; Isa. 29:10)
 - 1. Paul says "unto this day" they have been given a spirit of slumber – this may point to the fact that it will not always be so.
 - ii. David prayed for their rejection (9-10) (Psalm 69:22-23)
 - 1. In the Psalm, David prays for God's glory in the punishment of disobedient Israel

2. Paul shows that even Israel's greatest King understood the difference between believing Israel and unbelieving Israel
 - b. The Jew's rejection is in God's Purpose (11)
 - i. They did not stumble just so they would fall, they fell so that God's saving purpose for the world would be displayed
 - ii. To bring in the Gentiles to God's people
 - iii. to make Israel Jealous – because God accepts the nations through Christ
 - c. The Jew's rejection and Acceptance effects everyone (12-15)
 - i. The Jew's rejection means riches for the world (12)
 - ii. The Gentiles acceptance means salvation for the Jew (13-14)
 - iii. The Jew's inclusion will be the fulfillment of the promise (15)
 1. All men (Jew and Gentile) will be accepted
 2. When the national Jews come to Christ – the fulfillment will be complete
- III. A Warning to the Gentiles (16-21)
- a. A warning against pride (16-18)
 - i. It is the root that makes the tree holy (16)
 1. The olive tree is a common Old Testament figure of Israel.
 2. Those who are part of the tree are holy because of the tree not because they are holy in themselves
 - a. You are holy in Christ and therefore accepted into the people of God (the olive tree)
 - ii. Some branches have been grafted in and broken off (17)
 1. The unbelieving Jews have been broken off from the tree
 - a. This doesn't mean all Jews. It means those who do not trust in God's Messiah
 2. The believing Gentiles have been grafted into the tree
 - iii. Those grafted in must not be arrogant (18)
 1. it was not because of anything in you
 2. it was by grace
 - b. A warning against Unbelief (19-21)
 - i. unbelief caused the Jew's rejection (19-20a)
 - ii. If the Church becomes like the Jews they could be broken off (20b-21)
 1. This doesn't mean a person loses salvation; it is speaking of people groups.
 2. If a church persists in the same attitude as national Israel, God can remove that church just as easy
 - a. They say God loves us because of who we are
 - b. They say God accepts us because of who we are
 3. For example: Revelation 3:5 *Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or*

else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

iii. We cannot be prideful about our acceptance through Christ. We are completely indebted to God's grace.

1. We cannot look down upon national Israel
2. They can be saved by Grace through faith the same as us

IV. All of God's People (Israel) will come through Christ (22-32)

- a. God will accept the Jews through faith in Christ (22-24)
 - i. Faith in Christ is the Key
 1. Judgment and mercy are offered (22) – God is both merciful and severe. He is just and righteous
 2. Belief in Christ differentiates the lost and saved for both Jew and Gentile (23a)
 - ii. God can graft the Jews in again by Faith in Christ (23b-24)
- b. All Israel will be saved (25-26)
 - i. The Jew's have been partially hardened so the gentiles may come in (25) "come in" to what? – Into the olive tree – Into the people of God
 - ii. "SO" = IN THIS WAY – all Israel (both Jew and Gentile) will be saved. In what way? – Through Christ. (26a)
- c. Christ is Salvation for all men (26b-32)
 - i. Christ is the fulfillment of God's promise to His people (26b-27) – The deliverer of Israel is Christ and only Christ
 - ii. God has purposed to save both groups the same way (28-32)
 1. God has not abandoned the Jews (28-29)
 - a. because of their forefathers, he offers salvation
 - b. his calling to salvation still stands (29)
 - c. He has not forgotten the Jews. He has brought them salvation.
 2. God has brought Jew and Gentile into salvation the same way (30-32)
 - a. Gentiles were once disobedient and have received mercy (30)
 - b. Now the Jews are disobedient and will one day receive mercy (31)
 - c. God's plan has unfolded to save all men (Jew and Gentile) the same way (32)