

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Romans 11:1-24.**
- B. Israel's future is in the church. Israel will not survive as a nation, but those who are obedient to X, will become a part of spiritual Israel (Rom. 11:26).
- C. God's sovereign choice still stands. All men and women are to be saved in X.
- D. Romans, chapter 11 discusses the destiny of physical Israel due to God's choice of X.
God's choice, and Israel's future is seen and illustrated in:
 - 1. Paul.
 - 2. Elijah and the remnant.
 - 3. The Gentiles' obedience.

I. GOD'S CHOICE... **IN PAUL HIMSELF.**

- A. See **Rom. 11:1.**
I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
- B. Has God rejected the Israelites as a nation so that no Israelite could be saved? NO! If God had rejected all of Israel, then Paul himself could not be saved.
- C. God has not totally "written off" Israel. Paul himself is proof of that! Paul is an Israelite who has accepted Jesus as the Messiah, and became obedient to Him. It is in the same way that the nation of Israel will be saved. Individuals leaving the Mosaic covenant for a relationship with God through X (1Tim. 1:16).

II. GOD'S CHOICE... **IN THE PROPHET ELIJAH AND THE REMNANT.**

- A. See **Rom. 11:2-10.**
- B. Paul now points out that in times past a nation that had been in apostasy, still had a remnant (a small portion) that was faithful. Elijah thought himself to be alone in his faithfulness, but God had 7,000 more that had not bowed to idols.
- C. Remember again in Rom. 9:6 that not all Israel (children of the promise) are descended from Israel. There is such a thing as physical Israel, and spiritual Israel (Rom. 2:25-29).
- D. God's sovereign choice is that those who come to Him, do so by His grace. Israel, as long as they pursued righteousness by works, outside of X, would be lost. But, if they accepted the grace of God found in Jesus, they could be saved.
- E. Those who would not accept X, found themselves with hardened hearts. They have a spirit of stupor (lack of understanding). The same sun that softens the butter hardens the clay. It is not the fault of the sun (God) but of the material it shines upon (the heart of hearer).
- F. Israel is lost for three reasons:
 - 1. They had not sought salvation through faith, but through works (Rom. 9:32,33).
 - 2. They had heard the message but were obstinate and disobedient (Rom. 10:17,18,21).
 - 3. They had been given a "spirit of stupor" by God. Israel had rejected God, so God has rejected Israel.

III. GOD'S CHOICE... **IN THE GENTILES' OBEDIENCE.**

- A. See **Rom. 11:11-15.**
I say then, they did not stumble so as to fall, did they? May it never be! But by their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, to make them jealous.
- B. Paul continues to argue for God's great choice of spiritual Israel. The fall (rejection) of physical Israel,

in no way detracts from the blessings to spiritual Israel. Rather, this fact enhances it!

C. Because of the fall, the transgression, and the rejection of physical Israel:

1. Spiritual riches come to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:12).
Now if their transgression be riches for the world and their failure be riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their fulfillment be!
2. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles is magnified (made more essential) (Rom. 11:13).
But I am speaking to you who are Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am an apostle of Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,
3. Jealousy among Jews might result in their repentance and salvation (Rom. 11:14).
if somehow I might move to jealousy my fellow countrymen and save some of them.
4. A possible reconciliation to God of the entire world (Rom. 11:15).
For if their rejection be the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

IV. GOD'S CHOICE... **AS SEEN IN TWO METAPHORS.**

A. See **Rom. 11:16-24.**

B. **The lump of dough** (Rom. 11:16a).

And if the first piece of dough be holy, the lump is also;...

1. When the Israelites gave the first fruits of the dough unto God (Num. 15:20-21) that made the rest of the lump suitable (sanctified) for use.
2. The argument IS NOT that the patriarchs, the first piece, is holy and therefore physical Israel (the lump) is too.
3. Paul's argument IS to be applied to spiritual Israel. The first Jews to respond to the gospel (the first fruit) is holy, then all the Jews that respond (the lump) will be holy too.

C. **The olive tree** (Rom. 11:16b).

...and if the root be holy, the branches are too.

The root is holy. Spiritual Jews responded to X and became Xians. Now the tree can grow with more obedient Jews, and be added to with the grafting in of the Gentiles.

1. The Gentiles were brought into fellowship with spiritual Israel (Rom. 11:17-18).
But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree, do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.
We are to be thankful for every blessing and every fulfilled prophecy made unto the Jews concerning the X and salvation. Because of these things, the Gentiles have the right to be saved. If the promises did not come to all the Jews first, the Gentile could not be saved.
2. Unbelief caused the Jews to be pruned, and can cause pruning to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:19-21).
You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in." Quite right, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear; for if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will He spare you.
Salvation is still by faith. By unbelief the Jews were broken off. Arrogant Gentiles can also be broken off if they do not continue in faith.
3. The Jews may continue to be grafted in (Rom. 11:22-24).
Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut off from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more shall these who are the natural branches be grafted into their own olive tree?
If the unbelieving Jews change their mind and decide to accept X, they can be saved.
This is actually a more natural graft, than the grafting in of a wild olive branch.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. What have we learned this morning? God's sovereign and gracious choice of salvation is:
1. Made evident in Paul.

2. Made evident in the remnant of Israel that has accepted X.
 3. Made evident unto the Gentiles due to Israel rejecting the X.
- B. God exemplified His sovereign and gracious choice because:
1. If the first fruits are holy, then the whole lump is holy.
 2. If the root is holy, then the whole tree (even with grafted branches) is holy.
- C. God's sovereign and gracious choice is that all men be saved in X.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.