

Romans 10:19–11:10 NKJV 19 But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says: *“I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation.”* 20 But Isaiah is very bold and says: *“I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me.”* 21 But to Israel he says: *“All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people.”* 1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 *“Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”?* 4 But what does the divine response say to him? *“I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”* 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 6 And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. 7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. 8 Just as it is written: *“God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day.”* 9 And David says: *“Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always.”*

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First Moses says:
*“I will provoke you to jealousy
 by those who are not a nation, I
 will move you to anger by a
 foolish nation.”*

Did Israel not know? Paul’s answer is, “Of course they knew.” They not only had the testimony of creation (_____ revelation), they also had _____ revelation – the Holy Scriptures. Paul here points out that they not only knew, but they were warned in both the Law and the Prophets, two of the three _____ of the Old Testament Scriptures.

First he quotes Moses in the Law. This passage is from

Deuteronomy 32:21 NKJV They have provoked Me to jealousy by *what* is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by *those who are* not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.

Israel's purpose was to lead other nations to know the One True and Living God. _____ acknowledged this truth at the dedication of the temple in Jerusalem.

1 Kgs 8:59-60 59 And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require, 60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; there is no other.

But God warned Israel that when they sought other gods themselves and rejected Him, He would bring salvation to those who were not Jews, provoking His own chosen people to _____ as they witnessed others in that special place of relationship to God. This the Lord did by sending the gospel to the _____!

Now Paul calls the prophets to testify.

Isaiah 65:1 NKJV "I was sought by *those who did not ask for Me*; I was found by *those who did not seek Me*. I said, 'Here I am, here I am,' To a nation *that was not called by My name*.

In contrast to the Gentiles who are coming to Christ, it is Israel who rejected her Messiah. And Paul continues to quote Isaiah.

Isaiah 65:2 NKJV I have stretched out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, Who walk in a way *that is not good*, According to their own thoughts;

The Lord _____ (**all day long**) extended the offer of salvation to the people of Israel, but they were **disobedient** (literally, _____ to the truth).

20 But

Isaiah is very bold and says:

"I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

21 But

to Israel he says:

"All day long I have stretched out My hands To a disobedient and contrary people."

**12 ¹ I say then,
has God cast away
His people?**

**Certainly not!
For I also am an Israelite,
of the seed of Abraham,
of the tribe of Benjamin.**

**² God has not
cast away
His people
whom He foreknew.**

Here is a key question for Christians today, and it is one that is tremendously important for the understanding of the whole story of Scripture. Unfortunately, even though Paul's answer is plain, many modern believers are ignorant of it. Paul asks, "In light of Israel's unbelief and the Gentiles faith, **has God cast away His people?**" In other words, is God through with Israel? Are all of God's covenants with Israel now null and void? Has the _____ replaced Israel as the chosen people?

A large number of Christians would answer this question in the affirmative. They would say that Israel has no special place in the plan of God since their rejection of Christ as Messiah and the beginning of the church among the Gentiles. These would say, "The church is the _____ Israel."

But that is not what the Holy Spirit says through the Apostle Paul. After asking, "**Has God cast away His people?**" Paul answers, "**Certainly not!**" This is the _____ negative in the Greek language. The King James Version translates it, "God forbid!" It could be translated "_____" or "No way!"

As evidence that God has not cast away the Jews, Paul points to himself. "**I am an Israelite,**" he says. "Do you think God has cast me away?" Then he says plainly, "**God has not cast away His people.**" He adds as a descriptor, **whom He foreknew**. This reminds the reader that Israel's unbelief and rejection of Jesus as Messiah did not catch God off guard. He knew this would happen. He foreknew everything, and He foreknew everything concerning Israel. In fact, this is hardly the first time that Israel has fallen into unbelief.

Or do you not know

**what the Scripture says of
Elijah,
how he pleads with God against
Israel, saying,**

**³ “Lord, they have killed Your
prophets and torn down Your
altars, and I alone am left, and they
seek my life”?**

⁴ But

**what does the divine response
say to him?**

***“I have reserved for Myself seven
thousand men who have not
bowed the knee to Baal.”***

**⁵ Even so then,
at this present time
there is a remnant
according to the election
of grace.**

**⁶ And if by grace,
then *it is no longer of works*;
otherwise
grace is no longer grace.**

But

**if *it is of works*,
it is no longer grace;
otherwise work is no longer work.**

Paul takes us back to 1 Kings 19, to the days immediately following the victory of **Elijah** the prophet on Mt. Carmel. We would think that after God answered Elijah’s prayer for fire from heaven and after the death of the 450 prophets of Baal that Elijah would be ready to take on the world! But when _____ sends him a message threatening to kill him, Elijah runs for his life, all the way to Mt. Horeb, the same mountain as is called _____. We see Elijah at the weakest moment spiritually in all of his life as he pathetically complains to the Lord, “God I am the only person you have left in all of Israel, and they are trying to kill me!” But what does God say? “Elijah, I still have **seven thousand** faithful believers in Israel.”

Paul draws his conclusion: God still has **a _____** of believers today among the Jews. Paul was one of them, but there were many more. No, the majority of the Jews did not believe. The majority of the Jews openly rejected Christ. But some did believe! Some were saved. God had a remnant among the Jews.

God has _____ had a remnant!

And this remnant has been made so by _____. They are believers saved by grace as are we all, Jew and Gentile alike. Paul clarifies that no one has come into God’s family and God’s Kingdom differently. The Jews did not come in by _____ and the Gentiles by grace. There is only one way to salvation, and you cannot have it both ways. Paul says it is either by grace or works, and grace wins! Salvation is by grace through faith and not of works. Period.

7 What then?

**Israel has not obtained
what it seeks;**

**but the elect have obtained it, and
the rest were blinded.**

8 Just as it is written:

***“God has given them a spirit of
stupor, Eyes that they should not
see And ears that they should not
hear, To this very day.”***

9 And David says:

***“Let their table become a snare and
a trap, A stumbling block and a
recompense to them.¹⁰ Let their
eyes be darkened, so that they do
not see, And bow down their back
always.”***

So what is the conclusion? **Israel** (as a _____, as a nation) **has not obtained** a righteous relationship with God. Only **the elect**, the saved, have that relationship. The rest were made spiritually _____.

Be careful to make note of the order of things here. Those who are the elect, in other words, they believed in Christ and were saved, are part of the remnant. But those who did not believe were made spiritually blind. It is not that they were made spiritually blind so that they had no capacity to know the truth and put their faith in the Lord Jesus. They did not believe and so _____ blind to the truth.

The blinding of spiritual eyes is very much akin to the hardening of a person's heart. As we said earlier in our study, Pharaoh hardened his heart against the Lord, and then God hardened it further to accomplish His purpose. When people do not respond to the light and truth God reveals to them, then God sometimes blinds them to further light and truth. God has no obligation to maintain our sensitivity to Him.

_____ that sense God's Spirit but reject Him, may not be able to sense Him tomorrow.

_____ that see God's light today but reject it, may not be able to see it tomorrow.

_____ that hear God's truth today but reject it, may not be able to hear it tomorrow.

That is why God warns us,

***Hebrews 3:8 NKJV Do not harden your hearts
as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the
wilderness,***

Paul finalizes his point by quoting David in Psalm 69. David is speaking of those who reject God's revelation and prophetically about those who reject God's Messiah. A man's **table** is a place of comfort and _____. David prays for it to become a **snare and a trap** for those who refuse to believe.

Concerning the final words of this passage, MacArthur's commentary is so apt that I want to simply quote it:

"The Jews considered God's 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** and a retribution.

"One of the saddest commentaries of history is that so many people place their trust in the very thing that damns them. All false religions – pagan, cultic, unbiblical Christianity, and every other kind – present _____ means of salvation. The more their adherents feed on the falsehoods, the more immune they become to the true gospel of Jesus Christ, the living bread of life.

"As she continued to reject God, _____ became progressively more spiritually blind – so blind that she could not recognize her own Messiah and Savior. Just as David had prayed in righteous indignation against the sins of his own people, Israel's eyes were darkened to see not. Because Israel refused to see the things of God, God judicially ratified her willing blindness. **Bend their backs** suggests the hunched over position in which blind people sometimes walk as they grope their way on a path they cannot see that leads to a destination they do not seek."

But glory to God, there is hope. In another Psalm we find these words given by the Spirit of God concerning His people Israel:

Psalm 89:31–37 NKJV 31 If they break My statutes And do not keep My commandments, 32 Then I will punish their transgression with the rod, And their iniquity with stripes. 33 Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail. 34 My covenant I will not break, Nor alter the word that has gone out of My lips. 35 Once I have sworn by My holiness; I will not lie to David: 36 His seed shall endure forever, And his throne as the sun before Me; 37 It shall be established forever like the moon, Even *like* the faithful witness in the sky."

The ultimate fate of Israel, as our own, is not determined by their faithfulness or ours – praise God; but by the faithfulness of Him who will not _____ His covenant. He will not _____ His Word. He never _____. As Paul wrote to his disciple,

2 Timothy 2:13 NKJV **If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.**

And we shall see in the verses to come, the faithfulness of God shall prove to be wonderful news to Israel, as it also is to each of us.

GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL

INTRODUCTION: Romans 11 is all about God's plan for Israel, a plan so often ignored or misunderstood by Christians today. In the next section of Romans 11, beginning in verse 11, we come to God's description of the olive tree, which He uses to help us picture what has happened and what is going to happen in His relationship with the nation and people of Israel. Before we look at the intricate details by exegeting one verse at a time, we need to review the big picture, what the totality of Scripture reveals about God's plan for Israel. Therefore, for a few minutes, we take a short break in the format we have adopted for the verse by verse exposition of Romans. When we complete this overview, we will return to that format in Romans 11:11.

In order to set our context, let us review...

I. GOD'S COVENANTS WITH ISRAEL

A. The _____ Covenant

1. The Covenant made **Genesis 12:1-3** 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

a. This covenant is _____.

b. This covenant is fulfilled in Christ.

2. The Covenant expanded **Genesis 22:16-17** 16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only *son*— 17 blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which *is* on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

a. This covenant is _____.

b. This covenant is not yet fulfilled.

B. The _____ (Sinai) Covenant

1. The Covenant made **Exodus 19:5-8** 5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine. 6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel." 7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the LORD commanded him. 8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD."

2. This covenant is _____.

3. God's declaration of what will happen when the covenant is broken is told in Deut. 4:25-40.

a. If you do evil...

Deuteronomy 4:25-26 "When you beget children and grandchildren and have grown old in the land, and act corruptly and make a carved image in the form of anything, and do evil in the sight of the LORD your God to provoke Him to anger, I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day, that you will soon utterly perish from the land which you cross over the Jordan to possess; you will not prolong your days in it, but will be utterly destroyed.

b. The Lord will _____ you...

Deuteronomy 4:27-28 "And the LORD will scatter you among the peoples, and you will be left few in number among the nations where the LORD will drive you. And there you will serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see nor hear nor eat nor smell.

c. God will restore you in the _____ days...

Deuteronomy 4:29-31 "But from there you will seek the LORD your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul. When you are in distress, and all these things come upon you in the latter days, when you turn to the LORD your God and obey His voice, (for the LORD your God is a merciful God), He will not forsake you nor destroy you, nor forget the covenant of your fathers which He swore to them.

d. You will dwell in the _____ eternally.

Deuteronomy 4:40 "You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time."

4. Israel did break the Mosaic Covenant.

Jeremiah 11:10 They have turned back to the iniquities of their forefathers who refused to hear My words, and they have gone after other gods to serve them; the house of Israel and the house of Judah have broken My covenant which I made with their fathers."

C. The Mosaic Covenant to be replaced by the _____ Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34 31 "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they

broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. 33 But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

2. This covenant is _____.

3. Made available in _____.

D. The _____ Covenant

1. Established in 2 Samuel 7:12-16.

2. The throne of David would be established _____.

3. This covenant is _____.

4. **Christ must reign from David's throne.** Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of *His* government and peace *There will be* no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

This has not happened yet. It will during the millennium!

II. ISRAEL'S CONDITION DURING THE AGE OF THE GENTILES (Rom. 11)

A. God has _____ cast Israel away. Romans 11:2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. ...

B. During this age, there is a believing _____ saved by grace, just as the Gentiles are saved. Romans 11:5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

C. For the most part, Israel is blinded to the truth of the _____. Romans 11:7-10 7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. 8 Just as it is written: "*God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day.*" 9 And David says: "*Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always.*"

D. This stumbling does not mean their ultimate _____. Romans 11:11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation *has come* to the Gentiles.

E. The picture of the _____ tree. Romans 11:16-24 16 For if the firstfruit *is* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*; and if the root *is* holy, so *are* the branches. 17 And if some of

the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, *remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." 20 Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. 21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. 22 Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in *His* goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. 23 And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. 24 For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who *are* natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

1. The root and trunk of the tree is God's _____ Tree.
2. Israelites were among the first branches to grow on the tree.
3. They were _____ off due to unbelief.
4. Believing Gentiles have been _____ into the family tree by God's grace as they believed in Christ.
5. When Israelites believe in _____, they will be grafted back into God's Family Tree.

F. Israel's spiritual blindness is not _____ but will continue until all the Gentiles who will be saved have been saved. Romans 11:25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

G. And then _____ Israel will be saved. Romans 11:26-27 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

III. THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PROMISES

A. During the tribulation, and especially in the final siege of Jerusalem, God will purge from Israel those who will not believe (_____ of the population). Ezek. 20:33-38, Zech. 13:8-9 8 And it shall come to pass in all the land," Says the LORD, "That two-thirds in it shall be cut off *and* die, But *one*-third shall be left in it: 9 I will bring the *one*-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This *is* My people'; And each one will say, 'The LORD *is* my God.'"

- B. After Armageddon Christ returns to Jerusalem and in the first act of the millennium, _____ of the Israelites who have not already trusted the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior do so at that time.**

Zechariah 12:10-12 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, every family by itself..."

Zechariah 13:1 "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness."

- C. Then the words of the Holy Spirit through Paul shall be fulfilled: [Romans 11:26](#) "And so all Israel will be saved..."**
- D. The Promised Land will be divided into twelve sections, one each for the twelve tribes of Israel and they will live in the land as long as the earth lasts. (Ezek. 47:13-48) Here they will prosper and multiply; their numbers becoming as the sand of the sea and the stars of the sky.**
- E. Christ shall reign from Jerusalem on David's throne, ruling as King over all the _____.**

Luke 1:32-33 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Zechariah 14:9 "And the LORD shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be -- "The LORD is one," And His name one."

CONCLUSION: All of God's promises to Israel will be fulfilled.

God is the Promise Keeper!