

Romans Series

Lesson #123

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Dean Bible Ministries

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The Epistle to the ROMANS

The Lump of Dough and the Olive Tree Romans 11:7–21



Romans 9–11

Romans 11 then answers the question, “has God cast away His people?” The answer is no. He still has a plan for national, ethnic Israel.

Rom. 9:27, “Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: ‘Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved.’ ”

Rom. 11:5, “Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.”

**Romans 11:5
Elijah's Remnant**

ISRAEL

Rejected God

“REMNANT”

v. 5

Elijah +

7,000

Rom. 11:6, “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.”

Romans 11:7, “What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.”

Romans 11:7
Israel = Not Obtained

ISRAEL

“The rest,” blinded
“they” or “their”
3pl *autos* 5× in
Vss. 6–10

“they” or “their”
3pl *autos* 9× in
Vss. 11–15

“ELECT”
v. 7

“REMNANT”
v. 5

The elect obtained

The “rest” did NOT obtain

Options:

- 1. Does God select them on the basis of no criterion— simply randomly, or haphazardly? Does God choose on the basis of no criterion or some? Is God's choice indiscriminate; without basis, or based on something?**
- 2. If God chooses on the basis of some criterion, it can either be a meritorious one, in which case His choice is based on works; or it is nonmeritorious ...**
- 3. Faith is nonmeritorious, the object of faith has the merit.**
- 4. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. Thus the absence of a mention of a condition, does not mean there is no condition.**

Rom. 11:8, “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.*’ ”

Deut. 29:4, “Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.”

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Isa. 29:10, “For the LORD has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep, and has closed your eyes, namely, the prophets; And He has covered your heads, namely, the seers.”

Rom. 11:9, “And David says: ‘Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them.

Rom. 11:10, “ ‘Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always.’ ”

Psa. 69:22, “Let their table become a snare before them, and their well-being a trap.

Psa. 69:23, “Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually.”

“The rejection of Israel then is only partial. Yet still there is the great mass of the nation on whom God’s judgment has come: what of these? Is there no further hope for them? Is this stumbling of theirs such as will lead to a final and complete fall? By no means. It is only temporary, a working out of the Divine purpose.”

~Sanday and Headlam, *Romans*, 318.

Romans 11:11, “I say then [*lego oun*], have they stumbled [*ptaio*] that they should fall [*pipto*]? Certainly not! But through their fall [*paraptoma, transgression*], to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.”

Paul asks: Did the hardened of Israel stumble only to fall beyond recovery?

Romans 11:11, “I say then [*lego oun*], have they [hardened Israel] stumbled [*ptaio*] that they [hardened Israel] should fall [*pipto*]? Certainly not! But through their [hardened Israel] [*paraptoma, transgression*], to provoke them [hardened Israel] to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles.”

Rom. 11:12, “Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!”

**πλήρωμα *plērōma* nom neut sing
fullness, wholeness, or
completeness in contrast to
something partial**

**Romans 11:13, “For I speak to you
Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to
the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,”**

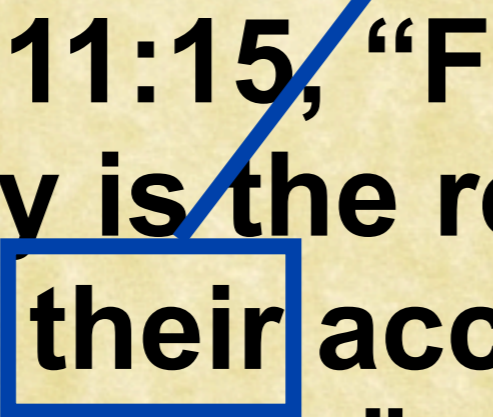
Romans 11:14, “if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.”

Rom. 11:12, “Now if their [hardened Israel] fall is riches for the world, and their [hardened Israel] failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their [hardened Israel] fullness!”

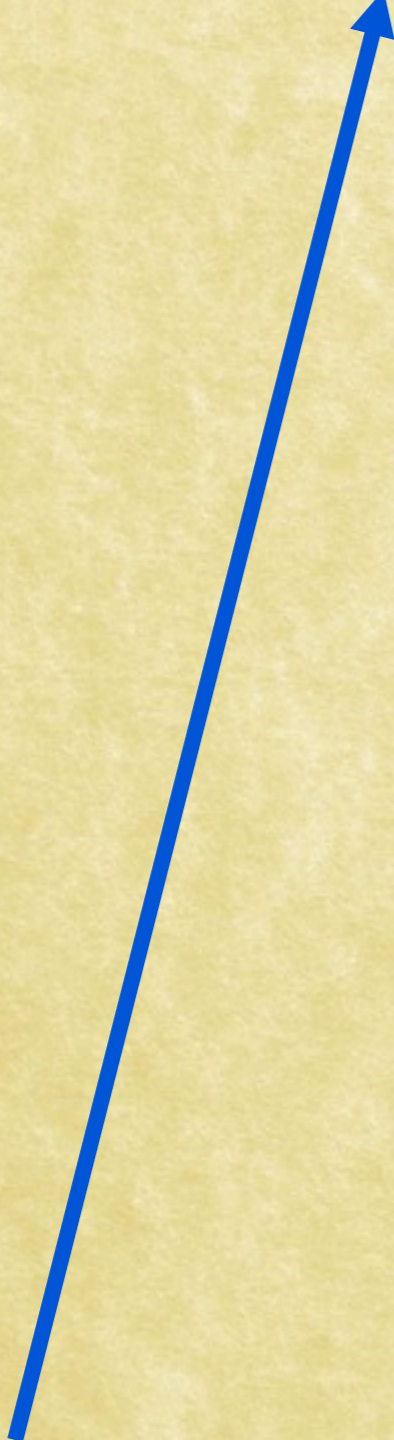
Rom. 11:15, “For if their [hardened Israel] being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their [hardened Israel] acceptance be but life from the dead?”

Romans 11:15, “For if [*ei gar*] their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”

Romans 11:15, “For if *[ei gar]* their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will **their** acceptance be but life from the dead?”



**Romans 11:14, “if by any means I may
provoke to jealousy those who are my
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Romans 11:12, “Now **if their fall is riches for the world, and **their failure** riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!**

Romans 11:13, “For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry,

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Romans 11:15, “**For if *[ei gar]* their** being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”

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Romans 11:15, “For if [*ei gar*] their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?”

Romans 11:16, “For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.”

Num. 15:19–20, “Then it shall be that when you eat of the food of the land, you shall lift up an offering to the Lord. Of the first of your dough [*aparachen phuramatos LXX*] you shall lift up a cake as an offering; as the offering of the threshing floor, so you shall lift it up.”

Romans 11:17, “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,”



Romans 11:18, “do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.”

**Romans 11:19, “You will say then,
‘Branches were broken off that I might be
grafted in.’ ”**

Romans 11:20, “Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.”

Romans 11:21, “For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.”