

Romans 11

Verse by Verse



Previously in Romans

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- Paul began by showing us that all are condemned and in need of a Savior.
- The Jew (who believed in the true God) and the pagan (who did not) both need to come to faith in Christ.
- He has also shown us how both Jews and Gentiles now combine to form **one church**.

Key Verse for Romans

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- **Romans 1:16** (ESV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Key Background for Romans 11

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- Genesis 12:1-3 (ESV)

¹ Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Romans 11 Introduction

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- In **Romans 9 – 11**, Paul explains Jewish unbelief.
- He would desperately like to see his countrymen saved.
- At the same time, he knows **their present unbelief** was foretold by their very own Hebrew prophets.
- God is currently working to **reach the nations** with the gospel – the good news of Jesus Christ.

Romans 11 Key Verse

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- **Romans 11:25** (ESV)

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Romans 11 Outline

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1. The Remnant 11:1-10
2. The Gentiles 11:11-24
3. The Mystery 11:25-36

1. The Remnant 11:1-10

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- Paul offers himself as an example of **the remnant**.
- He illustrates his point with the story of **Elijah**.
- That prophet was tempted to think the nation had totally **rejected God**.
- Thus, they would be **rejected by God** in return.

1. The Remnant 11:1-10



Although Elijah thought that the whole nation of Israel had turned away from God and that he was the only faithful Israelite left, this was not the case. The Lord had preserved for himself a faithful remnant numbering seven thousand.

*– Colin Kruse,
Melbourne School of Theology*

1. The Remnant 11:1-10

- When we read passages like these, we need to keep in mind **two things**:
 1. The elect are always apparent by their **genuine faith**.
 2. Those who are hardened are the same as those who **reject the grace of God**.
- The **seven thousand** in the days of Elijah didn't bow their knees to Baal when so many others did.

2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

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- Israel's rejection of the gospel has led to Gentile inclusion in the church.
- This is a partial description of Paul's own ministry.
- Consider his ministry in Corinth.

2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- Acts 18:5-6 (ESV)

⁵ When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with the word, testifying to the Jews that the Christ was Jesus. ⁶ And when they opposed and reviled him, he shook out his garments and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the Gentiles.”

2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- All nations – including Israel – are all brought together into one on the basis of faith.

2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

Gentile believers must welcome Jewish believers and vice versa, for neither is superior to the other in God's sight. Because God has opened the door of salvation to us all, we must learn to accept one another and live as brothers and sisters.

*– David M. Kasali, Bilingual Christian
University of the Congo*



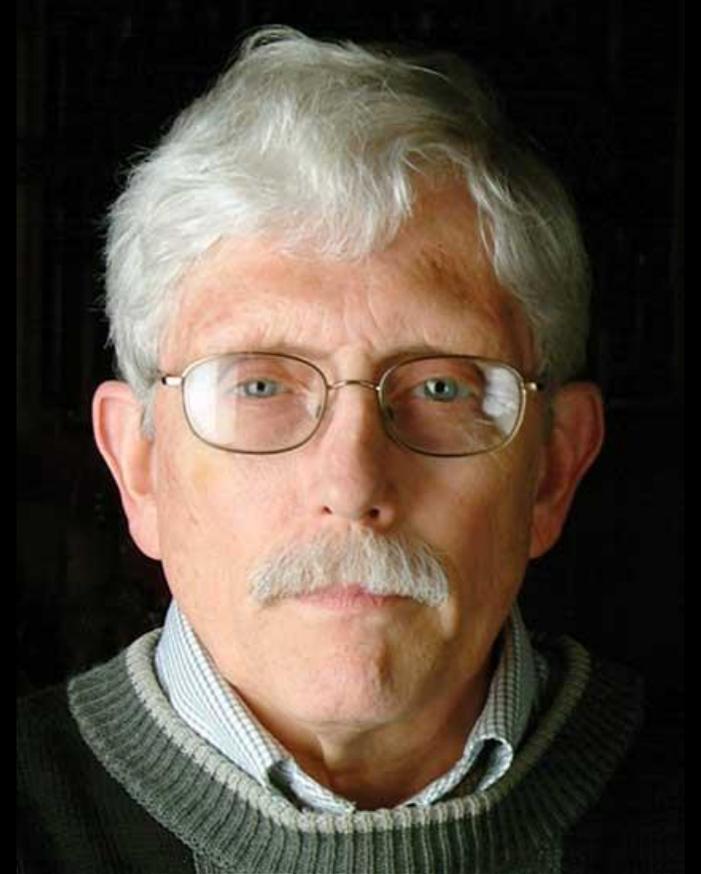
2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- Grant Osborne explains this unity for us with a little more detail.

2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

Stemming from the Old Testament, the image shows that Jew and Gentile together are the true people of God ... Two issues are a part of this: (1) There is no basis for anti-Semitism, for the Jewish people are equally the object of Divine love as are Gentiles ...

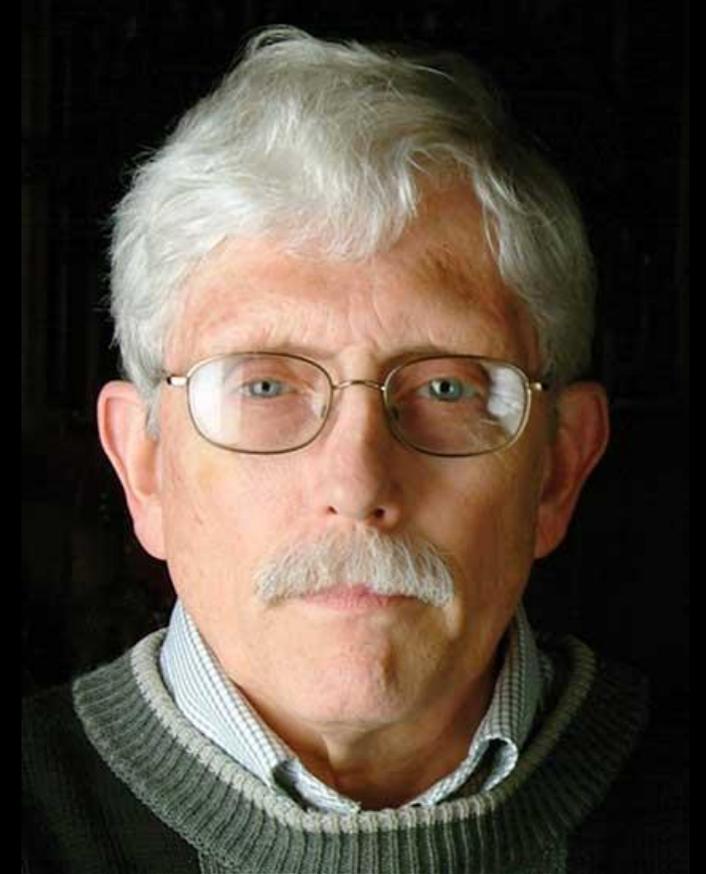
*– Grant Osborne,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

... and (2) all cultures and races become one in Christ. There is no possibility of racism, for every race and ethnic group is brought into both unity and equality in Christ.

*– Grant Osborne,
Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*



2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- When a group begins to view itself as somehow *more worthy* of God's grace than another, we are in trouble.
- By contrast, our various ethnicities, cultures, classes and backgrounds are meant to enrich the church.

2. The Gentiles 11:11-24

- At the same time, Paul talks about a special future for the nation of Israel.
- See v.12, where he speaks of their “full inclusion” or fulness.
- The Gentiles are cut from “a wild olive tree,” while the Jews are “the natural branches” to be grafted back in.

3. The Mystery 11:25-36

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- Remember our key verse.
- **Romans 11:25** (ESV)

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3. The Mystery 11:25-36

Paul ... seems to see salvation happening in three stages: rejection by Jews, acceptance by the full number of the Gentiles, and then all Israel will be saved.

*– Ben Witherington III,
Asbury Theological Seminary*



3. The Mystery 11:25-36

- A *mystery* is a previously hidden plan.
- God is now making it known to us.
- God's plan will unfold in **three stages**:

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 3. **All Israel will be saved.** That is, there will be a spiritual revival within ethnic Israel.

3. The Mystery

11:25-36



God has determined to save a certain number of Gentiles, and only when that number has been reached will Israel's hardening be removed. The "fullness of Israel" (v. 12) is therefore matched by a "fullness of the Gentiles."

*– Douglas Moo,
Wheaton Graduate School*

3. The Mystery 11:25-36

- Paul is so amazed by these truths he has just revealed to us that all he can do is end in worship.
- God's plan involves mercy and blessing toward all the nations of the earth.

Romans 11 What We Just Read

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Romans 11 Key Verse

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Romans 11 Key Points

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- Israel is something of a test case.
- Their place in God's plan is unique among the nations.
- Other nations have followed the same pattern.
- The gospel is only partially received and then loosely held by any group of people.

Romans 11 Key Points

- God's only national "Chosen People" is Israel.
- We non-Jews are grafted in.
- If God chooses to use, for example, the USA, he may do so, but he has no obligation to bless us.
- If our Christianity diminishes, so does our usefulness as a nation for God.

Romans 11 Key Points

- God keeps his promises.
- He still has a plan for Israel.
- He still has a plan for us.
- We need not fear being rejected once we have united ourselves with Christ by faith.

Romans 11 Key Points

- All people who receive the gospel are united with Christ by faith.
- We are also united with one another in God's family.
- We unite across ethnic or cultural boundaries.
- We can also see the church, de-church, and unchurched come together in one congregation.

Romans 11 A Prayer

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- Dear heavenly Father,
- We thank you for devising a most remarkable plan and doing so long before we – or this world – even existed.
- Help us to appreciate all you have done for us, by uniting us as one in your church.
- Teach us to appreciate our faith's Jewish heritage even as we long to see the people of Israel saved.

Romans 11 A Prayer

- Help us also to appreciate our own differences since you have united us across so many different boundaries.
- Let us as a body illustrate what it means to enjoy unity in Christ as our Savior.
- In His name we pray,
- Amen

Romans 11 References

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