Lesson 13 Romans 11

God Is Not Through With Israel

1. On what basis are Paul and others of the remnant chosen?

2. Why would this be so difficult for his fellow Israelites to grasp? See 10:3.

Romans 10:3

3 For, in their unawareness of the righteousness that comes from God and their attempt to establish their own [righteousness], they did not submit to the righteousness of God.

3. What were the spiritual consequences for those Israelites who rejected Jesus (vs. 7-10)?

7 What then? What Israel was seeking it did not attain, but the elect attained it; the rest were hardened,

8 as it is written: “God gave them a spirit of deep sleep, eyes that should not see and ears that should not hear, down to this very day.”

9 And David says: “Let their table become a snare and a trap,a stumbling block and a retribution for them;

10 let their eyes grow dim so that they may not see, and keep their backs bent forever.”

4. Do you feel that these consequences are inevitable for anyone who persistently rejects the Gospel?

5. How did Israel's rejection of Christ result in riches for others (vs. 11-16)?

11 Hence I ask, did they stumble so as to fall? Of course not! But through their transgression salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make them jealous.

12 Now if their transgression is enrichment for the world, and if their diminished number is enrichment for the Gentiles, how much more their full number.

13 Now I am speaking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch then as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I glory in my ministry

14 in order to make my race jealous and thus save some of them.

15 For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

16 If the firstfruits are holy, so is the whole batch of dough; and if the root is holy, so are the branches

6. Why is Paul convinced that even greater blessings will come from the Jews acceptance of Christ (vs. 11-16)?

7. Challenge Question: Why should Paul's illustration of the olive tree prevent believing Gentiles from feeling superior to unbelieving Israelites (vs. 17-24)?

17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, a wild olive shoot, were grafted in their place and have come to share in the rich root of the olive tree,

18 do not boast against the branches. If you do boast, consider that you do not support the root; the root supports you.

19 Indeed you will say, “Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in.”

20 That is so. They were broken off because of unbelief, but you are there because of faith. So do not become haughty, but stand in awe.

21 For if God did not spare the natural branches, [perhaps] he will not spare you either.

22 See, then, the kindness and severity of God: severity toward those who fell, but God’s kindness to you, provided you remain in his kindness; otherwise you too will be cut off.

23 And they also, if they do not remain in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.

24 For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated one, how much more will they who belong to it by nature be grafted back into their own olive tree.

8. Why does Paul want his Gentile readers to be aware of God's plan (vs. 25)?

25 I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not become wise [in] your own estimation: a hardening has come upon Israel in part, until the full number of the Gentiles comes in,

26 and thus all Israel will be saved

9. In this chapter Paul has argued that Israel's unbelief is partial (vs. 1-10), purposeful (vs. 11-16) and temporary (vs. 25-32). How does this make him feel about God (vs. 33-36)?

33 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways!

34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?”

35 “Or who has given him anything that he may be repaid?”

36 For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

10. How can Paul's description of God in vs. 33-36 encourage you to trust and praise Him?