

### Devotional Questions – Romans 11:1-12

1. *What example does Paul use to show that God has not totally rejected the people of Israel (Romans 11:1)?*
2. *What is the point Paul wants to make from Elijah (Romans 11:2-6, 1 Kings 19:1-18)?*
3. *On what basis was the remnant chosen? Why was this important (Romans 11:5-6)?*
4. *What is the point Paul wants to make from Moses (Romans 11:8, Deuteronomy 29:4)?*
5. *What is the point Paul wants to make from Isaiah (Romans 11:8, Isaiah 6:9, 29:9-10, 65:1-7)?*
6. *What was the focus of Psalm 69:21-22; how does Paul apply it (Romans 11:9-10)?*
7. *Why did God harden\* the rebellious Jews (Romans 11:11-12)? \*God blinded them, not hardened them according to Romans 11:7 “...**the rest were blinded.**”*

## Devotional Questions – Romans 11:1-12, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 420-434 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1244, 1442, 1501 for detailed comment.

1. *What example does Paul use to show that God has not totally rejected the people of Israel (Romans 11:1)?*

Paul cites himself as such in accordance with the principle of 1 Timothy 1:15 **"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief."**

Today's believer should therefore keep in mind the encouragement of Hebrews 7:25 **"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."**

2. *What is the point Paul wants to make from Elijah (Romans 11:2-6, 1 Kings 19:1-18)?*

See Romans 11:5 **"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace"** in accordance with the principle of Malachi 3:6 **"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."**

Today's believer should therefore keep in mind the encouragement of 1 Timothy 1:14 **"And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus."**

3. *On what basis was the remnant chosen? Why was this important (Romans 11:5-6)?*

Romans 11:5-6 state as follows, noting that the 1582 JR NT, 1881 RV, 1984, 2011 NIVs, JB, NJB, 1984, 2013 NWTs have blasphemously cut out the red-shaded words.

**"Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."**

The importance of the choosing by grace is so that the chosen would keep humble, as today's believer should remember, as Paul and James explain.

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast"** Ephesians 2:8-9.

**"But he giveth more grace, Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble"** James 4:6.

4. *What is the point Paul wants to make from Moses (Romans 11:8, Deuteronomy 29:4)?*

Deuteronomy 29:4 states **"Yet the LORD hath not given you an heart to perceive, and eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day."**

Isaiah 29:10, see *Question 5* below, is similar but stronger with respect to God's judgement on rebelliousness against God's grace: **"For the LORD hath poured out upon you the spirit of deep sleep, and hath closed your eyes: the prophets and your rulers, the seers hath he covered."**

Note in passing that Isaiah states that God's judgement had fallen upon Israel's leaders, which Jeremiah laments because he could see the final judgement that would fall for Israel's rebelliousness against God's grace. **"I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger... Shall I not visit for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this? A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"** Jeremiah 4:25-26, 5:29-31.

Romans 11:8 from Isaiah 29:10 states “(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.”

See also Romans 11:7 “...the rest were blinded.” Paul’s point is simply that rejection of God’s grace leaves the unbelieving sceptic vulnerable to manifold *spiritual* sense deprivation by both God as He declares to Moses with spiritual application to the unbelieving sceptic, Deuteronomy 29:4, Isaiah 29:10 and the devil as Paul explains.

**“And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man’s mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD?”** Exodus 4:11.

**“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”** 2 Corinthians 4:4.

Today’s believer should therefore pray for wisdom, James 1:5, to minister the scriptures in order to bring light and sense to those who dwell **“in darkness and the shadow of death”** Psalm 107:14 because **“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple”** Psalm 119:130.

5. What is the point Paul wants to make from Isaiah (Romans 11:8, Isaiah 6:9, 29:9-10, 65:1-7)?

See *Question 4* and note how the rebelliousness of His people does not extinguish God’s graciousness to them, Paul extending this point in Romans 11:11-12, see *Question 7*, that in summary of Isaiah 6:9, 29:9-10, 65:1-7, the Lord reveals in Isaiah 65:2 **“I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts.”** See Romans 10:21 and [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/) Romans 10 *Question 8* p 4.

Today’s believer should therefore without presumption keep in mind the Lord’s own testimony to His graciousness with respect to awaiting answers to prayer according to Isaiah 30:18 **“And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.”**

6. What was the focus of Psalm 69:21-22; how does Paul apply it (Romans 11:9-10)?

Psalm 69:21-23 state **“They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Let their table become a snare before them: and that which should have been for their welfare, let it become a trap. Let their eyes be darkened, that they see not; and make their loins continually to shake.”** Psalm 69:21-23 and context are an imprecatory prayer that is prophetic because it is Messianic with respect to Calvary Luke 23:33; Matthew 27:34, 48, Mark 15:36, Luke 23:36, John 19:29-30. The Lord Jesus Christ prayed **“Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do”** Luke 23:34 at Calvary and God gave the nation of Israel a second chance in answer to that prayer as indicated by Stephen’s testimony that the Jews rejected. **“Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God”** Acts 7:56.

Stephen’s intercession **“Lord, lay not this sin to their charge”** Acts 7:60 notwithstanding, the Jews **“do always resist the Holy Ghost”** Acts 7:51 as Paul rebuked them towards the end of his ministry in Acts 28:25-27 **“Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.”**

The judgement of the Lord's imprecatory prayer Psalm 69:21-23 and context will therefore come to pass as the Lord Himself prophesied *with respect to what is yet future* when speaking *practically* the Jews will receive a veritable 'table' of bitterness in return for having given the Lord Jesus Christ a literal 'cup' of bitterness **"For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind"** Hosea 8:7.

**"For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. But woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck, in those days! for there shall be great distress in the land, and wrath upon this people. And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled"** Luke 21:22-24.

That is the focus of Psalm 69:21-23 and context. Paul's application of the passage is preparatory to Romans 11:11-12, see *Question 7*, where he speaks again in effect of God's graciousness to Israel that the Lord Himself describes through Isaiah.

**"And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear"** Isaiah 65:24.

Practically speaking, today's believer should therefore keep in mind the Lord's *anti-Catholic* exhortation on prayer. **"But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him"** Matthew 6:7-8.

7. Why did God harden\* the rebellious Jews (Romans 11:11-12)? \*God blinded them, not hardened them according to Romans 11:7 **"...the rest were blinded."**

God blinded the rebellious Jews so that others would see, as Isaiah prophesied.

**"The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God"** Isaiah 52:10.

That salvation is a *Person*, as a believing Jew did testify.

**"Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel"** Luke 2:29-32.

Today's believer essentially has the same commission for the church age, therefore, that the Lord set for Himself with respect to **"thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people"** Luke 2:31. See *Question 4* and remarks on Psalm 119:130 noting that the 1881 RV, 1984, 2011 NIVs, JB, NJB, 1984, 2013 NWTs have blasphemously cut out the red-shaded words.

**"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord"** Luke 4:18-19.