

**Romans 11:1-24 "Step by Step"**

*Step by Step* is a verse by verse study through the Bible. With this approach we trust that God, in the person of the Holy Spirit, will emphasize specific points and passages to each person; training us in the Word and teaching us how to live with purpose and identity for His glory and for our joy. (John 15:8-11)

The focus of chapter 11 is to show that God has not rejected Israel and He will redirect His attention toward them in the future.

**V1** Since chapter 10 shows that Israel has rejected the gospel and now God has directed His attention to the gentiles, does that mean God has 'discarded' Israel, His people. Most definitely not!

**V2-4** Not only is there the example of Paul's life concerning God's attention toward the Jew, there are also the examples from scripture. 1Kings 18, 19 is where you find the story in reference.

**V5-** God always has a faithful remnant of His people in this world. Even now, God has those in Israel that love Him. They are not His faithful witnesses because of their 'works'. They love Him because of His grace extended!

**V6-** Concerning salvation, grace and works are incompatible! They do not mix! You can't say that we are saved by grace, after all that we can do. This verse is clear; you either receive salvation through grace or you try and earn a salvation with your works!

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**V7- *blinded***= hardened, calloused.

**7-10** Israel chose the path of rejecting their Messiah which resulted in God giving them over to that path. A path that brought *hardness, deafness, spirit of stupor*, spiritual and moral *blindness, traps, stumbling block*, basically receiving what they were asking for (*recompense*).

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**V11-** As Israel rejected Jesus, their Messiah, God directed His attention to the Gentiles. This attention given to the Gentiles would provoke a jealous response by some Jews because *salvation has come to the Gentiles*.

**V12-** Since their sad stumbling resulted in salvation for us, imagine what it will be like in the Millennial Reign of Christ and then in the New Jerusalem! (Revelation 20, 21)

**V13, 14-** Paul now directs his attention to his gentile readers. Paul seen that as he was faithful to his calling God would use his life to bring family members and countrymen to salvation.

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**V15-** Paul returns to his thought from v12; If Israel's rejection resulted in Gentile salvation, how much more glorious will it be when God redirects His attention to Israel!  
"Israel today is spiritually bankrupt, while Christians have "all spiritual blessings" in Christ. (Eph.1:3)... "Today, Israel, is fallen spiritually, but when Christ returns, the nation will rise again."  
Warren Weirsbe

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**V16-24** Paul will reference Israel's heritage to show what they have for a future. Remember this text is speaking of the nation of Israel in the plan of God. The first metaphor is a lump of dough, probably in reference to Numbers 15:19-21. The first portion(firstfruit) of the dough is set apart to God as a 'heave offering'. The idea being that if the first portion is accepted then all the 'lump' is acceptable. The picture is that since Abraham, the father of faith for the nation, was accepted then Abraham's descendants in the faith would also be accepted.  
The second metaphor is similar; if the root is *holy* (set apart) then so are the branches.

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**V17-** The unbelieving portion of the 12 tribes of Israel being *broken off* and believing gentiles grafted in to be a part of the olive tree.

**V18-21** We have nothing to boast about, for God grafted us in by grace! Ephesians 2:8,9 "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*"

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**V22-** The *severity* of God is seen in how He had to deal with unbelieving Israel, the *goodness* of God seen in His extending salvation to believing Gentiles. Don't take the instruction to believe half-heartedly, the Jews did that and look how that worked out for them.

**V23, 24-** Likewise the Jews, if they stopped the national unbelief God could very well graft them back in again. If that happened, they would excel for they are the *natural branches* of the olive tree in this metaphor.

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