

## The Remnant of Israel

### Key Scriptures

Romans 11:1-14 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, <sup>3</sup> "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? <sup>4</sup> But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." <sup>5</sup> Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. <sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. <sup>7</sup> What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. <sup>8</sup> 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." <sup>9</sup> And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. <sup>10</sup> Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always." <sup>11</sup> I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. <sup>12</sup> Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! <sup>13</sup> For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, <sup>14</sup> if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them.

**Key Point:** God is willing to harden those who are disobedient to His revelation. Yet he is always faithful to keep His promises.

## TALK IT OVER

**Start talking:** Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- As a child, what item did a friend or sibling possess that made you jealous?
- What moments of rejection in your teen years do you remember vividly? (getting cut from the team? Not being invited to the big party? Turned down for a date? Etc.)

**Start thinking.** Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- (v. 1-6) What are the three or four bits of evidence that Paul gives to prove God has not rejected the Jews?
- (v.7-10) How does the word 'recompense/retribution' in v.9 answer the person who says "It is unfair of God to harden a person's heart and mind toward the gospel! They never had a chance!" (Refer to similar verses in chapter 9 or 10).
- (v. 11-16) What does Paul mean when he says he seeks to make Jewish unbelievers jealous? Isn't that stirring up unworthy motives?

**Start sharing.** Choose a question to create openness.

- Could someone looking at your life clearly see, and so come to envy, the benefits of the gospel you enjoy?
- How can Christians stimulate one another to increase the fruitfulness of their lives . . . to avoid being blinded to spiritual realities by sin? What should you do if a professing Christian appears insensitive to spiritual truth? How is spiritual blindness or hardness removed?

**Start doing.** Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- God not rejecting Israel points back to the fact God is THE Promise Keeper. What fears in our life can be relieved by trusting in Gods promises this week?

**Prayer Requests.** It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

- 
- 
-