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Grafted into the Promise

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
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Romans 11:11-24

Introduction: The apostle, having reconciled that great truth of the **rejection** of the **Jews** with the promise made unto the fathers, is, in this chapter, further labouring to mollify (soften) the **harshness** of it, and to reconcile it to the **divine goodness** in general. It might be said, "Hath God then cast away his people?" The apostles therefore sets himself, in this chapter, to make a reply to this objection, and that TWO WAYS:-- **I.** He shows at large what the mercy is that is mixed with this wrath, Romans 11:1-32.

II. He infers thence the **infinite wisdom** and **sovereignty** (supreme [highest] power) of God, with the adoration of which he concludes this chapter and subject, Romans 11:33-36.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/mhm/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:1, *I say then, Hath God **cast away his people?** God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the **seed of Abraham**, of the tribe of Benjamin.*

NOTE: Paul refuted the allegation that God had **cast off his people** by appealing to his own conversion as proof of the validity of GOD'S PROMISE; which fact demonstrates what Paul meant. Paul was **NOT saved** through his **membership** in the **Jewish nation** at all, but as an **individual obedient believer IN Christ**, such salvation also being available to **ALL** who ever lived since Christ came (JEWS and GENTILES alike), and upon identical conditions. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:2-6, *God hath **NOT cast away his people** which he **foreknew**. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of **Elias?** how he maketh **intercession** to God against Israel, saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and **I am left alone**, and they seek my life. But what saith the answer of God unto him? **I HAVE RESERVED** to myself **seven thousand men**, who have **NOT** bowed the knee to the image of **Baal**. Even so then at this **present time** also there is **a remnant** according to the **election of grace (divine influence upon the heart)**. 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.*

NOTE: **Even so then at this present time...** is Paul's way of saying that, just as the TRUE Israel in Elijah's day was in no way part of the corrupt nation, just so then, at the beginning of the Christian era, the TRUE Israel HAD NO CONNECTION whatever with the **hardened and apostate nation** that **murdered** the Lord. ...**They are the people who have ACCEPTED the gospel**, have been **baptized INTO** the BODY of Christ, thus being Abraham's true seed (Galatians 3:29).

Galatians 3:29, And if ye **be Christ's**, **THEN** are YE **Abraham's SEED**, and **heirs** according to the PROMISE.

A remnant ... means a part of fleshly Israel. And who were they? They were the **3,000** souls who **obeyed the gospel** on **Pentecost**. The **original church** of Christ was almost totally JEWISH, including the Twelve, and many others of that first period. They are the remnant, the TRUE SPIRITUAL SEED, **later extended** by the inclusion of Gentiles and "whosoever will."

No more of works... The great objection to Paul's preaching the gospel of Christ, on the part of the old Israel, had to do with his categorical **rejection of ALL** the elaborate **ceremonial** of **Moses' law**, to which the fleshly Israel tenaciously clung, not in the sense of keeping it, as did Zacharias and Elizabeth, but in the sense of making it a **device** of their OWN glorification; and, upon such a basis, they **denied** that salvation could be extended to Gentiles.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:7-8, What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the **election** hath obtained it, and the **rest** were **blinded (HARDENED)** (According as it is written, God hath **given (deliver up)** them the spirit of slumber (numbness; moral stupidity), **EYES** that they should NOT see, and **EARS** that they should NOT hear;) unto this day.

NOTE: That which Israel seeketh for ... refers to fleshly Israel's "seeking" God and his approval, a thing which they did **NOT TRULY SEEK AT ALL**, for if they had truly sought the Lord, **they would have found him**, as one of their great prophets said: ...(Jer. 29:13). **...the rest were hardened ...** The TRUE Israel had **accepted Christ**, and the total FLESHLY Israel were **hardened**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-11.html>)

Thought 1. What comes to mind is when God sent Pharaoh his WORD, which he rejected, he hardened his OWN heart through the deceitfulness of sin. God just SENT his word.

Hebrews 3:7-8, 13, Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day **IF** ye will **HEAR** his VOICE, **Harden NOT your hearts**, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness... But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened through the deceitfulness** of **SIN**.

NOTE: This was spoken to a **generation** that had **witnessed** the **miracles** of God through Moses in their fantastic deliverance from Egypt through the Red Sea. The thrust of the words here is that although they had indeed "SEEN" such wonders, in the sense of stimuli on the retina of the EYE, they had NOT grasped the true meaning and significance. ...The great realities are morally and spiritually understood. Thus, when Jesus condemned **unbelief**, he made it the consequence of **MORAL blame** rather than of intellectual doubt (John 3:19). (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-11.html>)

John 3:19, And this is the condemnation, that **LIGHT** is come into the world, and men **LOVED darkness** rather than **light**, because their deeds were **EVIL**.

Romans 11:9-11, And David saith, *Let **their table** be made a **snare**, and a **trap**, and a **STUMBLINGBLOCK**, and a **recompence** unto them: Let their eyes be **darkened**, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. I say then, Have they stumbled that they should **FALL (fall down; [perish])? God forbid:** but rather through their **FALL (side-slip)** salvation is come unto the **Gentiles**, for to provoke them to **jealousy (stimulate alongside, EMULATION)**.*

EMULATION, noun The act of attempting to equal or excel in qualities or actions; generally in a good sense, or an attempt to equal or excel others in that which is praise-worthy, without the desire of depressing others. Romans 11:14. In a bad sense, a striving to equal or do more than others to obtain carnal favors or honors. Val.5.

NOTE: And David saith ... - This quotation is made from Psalm 69:22-23. This Psalm

is repeatedly quoted as having reference to the events recorded in the New Testament. (See the note at Acts 1:2.) This quotation is introduced immediately after one that undoubtedly refers to the Lord Jesus. Psalm 69:21, **“they gave me also gall for my meat, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”** The passage here quoted immediately follows as an imprecation (prayer that a curse or calamity may fall on any one) of **vengeance for their sins**. “Let their table,” etc. The quotation is not made, however, either literally from the Hebrew or from the Septuagint, but the sense only is retained.

... The meaning is this. The word **“table”** denotes **food**. In this they expected pleasure and support. David prays that even this, where they expected joy and refreshment, might prove to them the means of PUNISHMENT and righteous RETRIBUTION.

Have they stumbled that they should fall? - This is to be regarded as an objection, which the apostle proceeds to answer. The meaning is, is it the design of God that the Jews should totally and **irrecoverably** (beyond recovery) be **cast off?** Even admitting that they are now unbelieving, that they have **rejected** the Messiah, that they have stumbled, is it the purpose of God finally to EXCLUDE them from mercy?

God forbid: (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:12, Now if the **FALL (side-slip)** of them be the **riches (wealth)** of the world, and the **diminishing (deterioration [growing worse])** of them the **riches (wealth)** of the Gentiles; how much more their **fullness (completion)?**

NOTE: Here it stands opposed to their fall, and their diminution, and evidently means their complete **restoration** to the **FAVOR of God;** their recovery FROM **unbelief** and **apostasy**. That there will be such a recovery, the apostle proceeds to show.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:13-15, For I speak to you **Gentiles,** inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may **provoke** to **emulation (stimulate alongside)** them which are my flesh, and **might save** SOME of them. For if the **casting away** of them be the **reconciling** of the **world,** what shall the **receiving** of them be, but **LIFE FROM the DEAD?**

NOTE: The **restoration** of the **Jews** to a state of **favor** with God to which the apostle refers, and which is too plainly intimated by the **SPIRIT of prophecy** to admit of a doubt, will be a most striking event. Their being preserved as a distinct people is certainly a strong collateral proof that they shall ONCE MORE be **brought into** the Church of God: and their **conversion** to **Christianity** will be an incontestable proof of the truth of **Divine revelation;** and doubtless will become the means of converting multitudes of **DEISTS,** who will see the prophecies of God, which had been delivered so long before, so strikingly fulfilled in this great event. We need not wonder, if a whole nation should then be born as in a day. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/acc/romans-11.html>)

DEIST, a person who believes in DEISM (belief in the existence of a God on the evidence of reason and nature only, WITH rejection of supernatural revelation [distinguished from THEISM {the belief in one God as the creator and ruler of the universe, WITHOUT rejection of revelation}])

Romans 11:16, For if the **firstfruit** be holy, the **lump (mass of dough)** is also **HOLY (pure):** and if the **root** be **HOLY,** so are the **branches**.

NOTE: The Israelites were required to offer to God the first-fruits of the earth-both in their raw state, in a sheaf of newly reaped grain (Leviticus 23:10-11), and in their prepared state, made into **cakes of dough** (Numbers 15:19-21), by which the **whole produce** for **that season** was regarded as **hallowed**. It is probably the latter of these offerings that is here intended, as to it the word "lump" best applies; and the argument of the apostle is, that as

the separation UNTO God of **Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob**, from the rest of mankind, to be the parent stem of their race, was as real an OFFERING of **first-fruits** as that which hallowed the produce of the earth, so, in the divine estimation, it was as real a separation of the mass or "lump" of **that nation in ALL TIME** TO God.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:17-18, And if *SOME* of the **branches** be broken off, and thou, being a **wild olive tree**, wert **grafted in** among them, and with them **partakest** of the **root** and fatness of the olive tree; Boast NOT against the **branches**. But if thou boast, thou bearest **NOT** the root, but the root thee.

NOTE: Boast not ... - The tendency of people is to **triumph** (celebrate victory with pomp [pride]) over ONE that is **fallen** and **rejected**. The danger of **PRIDE** and **BOASTING** on account of privileges is **NOT** less in the church than elsewhere. Paul saw that some of the Gentiles might be in danger of **exultation** (great gladness) over the **FALLEN JEWS**, and therefore cautions them against it. The **ingrafted shoot**, deriving **all its vigor** and **fruitfulness** from the stock of another tree, ought **NOT** to boast against the branches.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:19-20, Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be **grafted IN**. Well; because of **UNBELIEF** they **were broken OFF**, and **thou standest by FAITH**.

Faith defined 4102, persuasion, i.e. moral conviction (of religious truth), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, CONSTANCY in such profession. Constancy, fixedness or firmness of mind; persevering resolution; steady, unshaken determination; particularly applicable to firmness of mind under **SUFFERINGS**.

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the **word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a WHILE BELIEVE**, and in **TIME of temptation (experience of EVIL) FALL AWAY (desert, DEPART, withdraw self)**.

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **SOME** shall **DEPART** from **the FAITH**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of **devils...**

Hebrews 3:12-14, Take **HEED**, brethren, lest there be **IN** any of you an **evil heart of UNBELIEF**, in **departing FROM** the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be **hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. For we are made partakers of Christ, **IF** we hold the beginning of our **CONFIDENCE STEDFAST** unto the **END...**

Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for those who were once **enlightened**, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers** of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **IF** they shall **fall away (apostatize [renounce totally a religious BELIEF once professed])**, to renew them again unto **repentance**; seeing they **CRUCIFY** to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Thought 1. In other words, **REJECT** Jesus just like those who **DID CRUCIFY** him.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 ...I have **finished** my course, I have **KEPT the FAITH**: henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown (prize in the public games)** of **righteousness...**

Romans 11:20-21, Be not highminded, but **FEAR (reverence)**: For if God **spared NOT** the **natural branches**, **TAKE HEED** lest he also **spare NOT thee**.

NOTE: For if God ... - If God did **NOT** refrain from **rejecting** the **Jews** who became

unbelievers, assuredly he will NOT refrain from rejecting you in the same circumstances. It may be supposed that he will be quite **as ready to reject the ingrafted branches**, as to cast off those which belonged to the parent stock. The situation of the Gentiles is NOT such as to give them **ANY SECURITY OVER** the condition of the **REJECTED Jew**.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/romans-11.html>)

Revelation 3:5, He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; And I will NOT blot out (ERASE) his NAME OUT of the **book of life**, but I will **confess** his NAME before my Father, and before his angels.

Thought 1. Remember, our names were written in the Book of Life when we believed on Jesus. And since, it's impossible a person who was ONCE a Christian to repent (Hebrews 6:4-6), that means IF their names are ever erased out of the book of Life, it's impossible for it to be re-written in it. So, they are eternally LOST and doomed to be cast IN the LAKE of FIRE.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was **NOT found written in** the **book of life** was cast into the **lake of fire**.

Revelation 3:14-16, And unto the **angel (pastor)** of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the **beginning of the creation of God**; I know thy works, that thou art neither COLD nor HOT: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art **LUKEWARM**, and neither cold nor hot, I **WILL spue (vomit)** thee out of my mouth.

Will defined 3195, to INTEND, i.e. be ABOUT to DO something.

Thought 2. From this definition, we see it's NOT conclusive yet that this "WILL" happen. Jesus is really warning them about how CLOSE they are to this danger of no longer being a part of him. That's why he continues to speak through verse 22, and, specifically in verse 19, telling them to REPENT BEFORE they ARE SPUED OUT from him. And since Jesus tells these believers in Revelation 3 to "REPENT", then, they STILL have an opportunity, and the ABILITY to repent.

So yes, they are, at this time, STILL a part of His body, since he has NOT spued them out from him.

They are, what some people call, "Lukewarm Christians."

Romans 11:22, Behold therefore the **GOODNESS** and **SEVERITY** (harshness, strictness) of God: on them which fell, SEVERITY; but toward thee, goodness,
IF thou CONTINUE IN his goodness: otherwise thou ALSO shalt be CUT OFF.

NOTE: The current **love-cult** has, to some degree, **perverted** man's conception of the divine goodness by leaving out of view the aspect of God's character which Paul here commanded men to behold. The **severity** here mentioned derives from the **righteousness** and **justice** of him who is angry with the wicked every day, who abhors evil, and who MUST PUNISH all who **deserve it**.

(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/romans-11.html>)

Thought 1. So, "**Once saved, always saved**" is **NOT true!** We're SECURE as long as we BELIEVE! That is, we have to CONTINUE to believe: keep the FAITH, to stay saved!

Romans 11:23-24, And they also, if they abide NOT still in **UNBELIEF**, shall be **grafted in:** for God is able to **graft them IN again.** For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is **wild by NATURE**, and wert GRAFTED contrary to nature INTO a **good olive tree:** how much more shall these, which be the **natural branches**, be **grafted into** their OWN olive tree?

NOTE: This is just the converse of what is said in Romans 11:21: 'As the **excision** (act of excising or cutting off) of the merely **engrafted** Gentiles through UNBELIEF is a thing much more to be expected than was the **excision** (act of excising or cutting off) of the natural Israel, before it happened, so the **restoration** of Israel, when they shall be brought to **believe in Jesus**, is a thing far more IN the LINE of what we should expect than the admission of the Gentiles to a standing which they never before enjoyed.'
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:25, For I would not, brethren, that ye should be **ignorant** of this **mystery**, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness (hardness)** IN PART is happened to **Israel**, **UNTIL** the **fullness (fulfilling)** of the **Gentiles** be come in.

NOTE: Until the **fullness** of the Gentiles be ('have') come in - i.e., NOT the general conversion of the WORLD to Christ, as many take it; for this would seem to contradict the latter part of this chapter, and throw the **national recovery** of **Israel** too far into the future; besides, in Romans 11:15 the apostle seems to speak of the receiving of Israel, not as following, but as contributing largely to bring about the general conversion of the world: clearly it means, 'until the **Gentiles have had their FULL TIME** of the visible Church all to themselves, while the Jews are out, which the Jews had until the Gentiles were brought in. (Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:26, And so **ALL Israel** shall **be saved**: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness FROM Jacob:

NOTE: ...all Israel shall be saved - NOT 'all the spiritual Israel,' Jew and Gentile (as one or two of the fathers, and Luther, Calvin, etc.), for throughout all this chapter, the apostle by "Israel" means exclusively the **natural seed** of **Abraham**, whom he sharply distinguishes from the Gentiles; nor the WHOLE BELIEVING remnant of the **natural Israel**, (as Bengel, Olshausen, etc.)
Clearly the meaning here is, **The Israelite nation at large**. To understand this great statement, as some still do, merely of such a gradual inbringing of individual Jews, that there shall at length remain **none in unbelief**, is to do manifest violence both to it and to the whole context. It can only mean the ultimate, INGATHERING of **Israel as a nation, in contrast with the present "remnant."**

....**Three Confirmations** of this Cheering Announcement Now Follow: **Two** from the Prophets, and a **Third** from the Abrahamic Covenant Itself
First Confirmation-from the Prophets As it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away - 'He shall turn away' (without the "and") is the true reading, Ungodliness from Jacob.
And whereas the prophet announces that **He "shall come to (or, 'FOR') them** that turn from transgression in Jacob," while the apostle makes him say that He shall come **"TO turn away ungodliness from Jacob,"** this is taken from the Septuagint version, and SEEMS to indicate a different reading of the original text. The sense, however, is substantially the same in both. **Second confirmation**-from the prophets.
(Source: <https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/romans-11.html>)

Romans 11:27-32, For this is **MY covenant** unto them, when I shall **take away their sins**. As concerning the **gospel**, they are **enemies** for your sakes: but as touching the **ELECTION**, they are **beloved** for the fathers' sakes. For the **gifts** and **calling** of God are without repentance. For as ye in times PAST **have NOT believed** God, yet have NOW **obtained mercy** through **their unbelief**: Even so have these also NOW **NOT believed**, that through your **MERCY** they also may obtain **MERCY**.
For God **hath concluded them ALL in UNBELIEF**, that he might **have MERCY upon ALL**.