

Romans 11:5-10

The Blindness of Israel

1. 11:5 – Election of Grace

- a. The “election of grace” is different than the dispensation of grace (to all)
- b. The election of grace is God’s choice to give mercy or not - Rom 9:11, 15, 18
- c. Throughout Israel’s history, some find grace, many do not (two vessels: wrath and mercy)
- d. God always required faith, Israel didn’t have it (Rom 10), He gives grace to those that did.
- e. Elijah believed, but Israel did not. God’s grace was found in a remnant - Rom 11:2-5
- f. “*even so...*” - The election of grace was in the OT, too (e.g. Noah, Josh, Jer, Elias remnant)
- g. “*at this present time*” - Also in this time of Israel’s stumble/fall, there is a remnant-Ro 11:5
- h. God gives grace to humble, believe with heart & mouth Heb 12:15,28, Jam4:6, 1Pe1:10,5:5

2. 11:6 – Grace and Works

- a. A popular verse: the first mention of ‘grace’ in Romans since Rom 6:15 is in 11:5-6
 - i. Grace (gift by God’s work) cannot be works (we do), else words mean nothing (4:4)
 - ii. We are saved today not by our works, but by the work of Christ.
 - iii. Our works include = love God, love neighbor, baptism, prayer, tithe, attendance
 - iv. The sinner is justified by faith of Christ - Luke 18:7-14, Matt 21:31, Rom 10:20
- b. This verse refers to how the remnant is identified, not you (but is a good for definition).
- c. Remnant is according to the election of grace through faith in Christ - Rom 4:16, 9:32, 10:6
- d. Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believes (not works) – 10:2
- e. We are saved by grace through faith not of works, aren’t we? So were they. Eph 2:8-9
- f. “*then is it no more of works*” – What is it? The election of God in Israel.
- g. Peter speaks of grace, faith, Holy Ghost among Gentiles by his mouth - Acts 15:7-11

3. 11:7 – The Rest Were Blinded

- a. “*What then?*” - Conclusion to the whole issue, what of Israel? The word of God? Ro 3:3, 9:6
 - i. God’s word has taken effect in his promise, mercy, Christ, faith, remnant, grace...
 - ii. “*Israel hath not obtained*” as God said, “*the election hath obtained*” as God said.
- b. *What did they seek to obtain?* Righteousness, mercy, salvation, glory, God -Rom 9:4-5, 10:1
- c. “*the election hath obtained it*” – The same election of grace in v5 = the remnant of Israel
 - i. This remnant acc. to the election of grace receives what the rest did not.
 - ii. The remnant existed before the rest were blinded, before their fall, before Paul, before salvation went to Gentiles (Acts 9, 13, 18, 28).
 - iii. Some Gentiles get blessed by this group, too, who receive their word by faith.
- d. “*the rest were blinded*” – The rest of what? Israel, which was not of faith/grace.
 - i. Remnant (of Israel) obtained + rest (of Israel) blinded = All Israel did not obtain
- e. “*unto this day*” - When were they blinded? MMLJ, Acts before Paul and his ministry.
- f. Prophecy speaks of Israel not obtaining, some given mercy, the rest of Israel blinded.
- g. The mystery Body of Christ revealed to Paul is not anything in this explanation of prophecy.

4. 11:8-10 – Israel’s Prophesied Blindness

- a. *“According as it is written”* = Prophecy being fulfilled from Isaiah, Moses, Psalms (David)
- b. God’s choice to give mercy (election of grace) was prophesied, also the blindness of Israel.
- c. v8 = Isa 29:10 → The blindness of Jerusalem - Isa 29:9-14, see also 2 Cor 3:14 and 1 Pet 2:8
 - i. Israel gives lip service, but not their heart (belief) – Isa 29:13, Mt 15:7-9, Jn 9:29-31
 - ii. Isa 6:9 is one of the most quoted OT verses in the NT, about Israel’s blindness.
 - iii. Deu 29:4 is God describing Israel’s blindness before entering the promised land.
- d. v9-10 – *“and David said”* → Ps 69:22-23 – A prayer from the remnant/Messiah
 - i. Ps 69:21 – “they gave me also gall... and vinegar” See the Lord in John 19:28-30
 - ii. For rejecting Christ, Israel gets blinded, the humble shall see, and for the rest their eyes will be opened one day yet to come. Psa 69:35-36