

## Musing #65: Romans 11:1-16

Paul now moves on with his discussion of his own people—Israel!

**Romans 11:1 I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.**

Israel is God's chosen on the earth—a nation. Yet, in Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is only the body and bride of the eternal Jesus Christ. We have never been under the law and there is a coming judgment of Israel as a nation to be judged in the Tribulation. We also know that Israel will be exalted in the Millennial period.

**2 No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning. Do you realize what the Scriptures say about this? Elijah the prophet complained to God about the people of Israel and said, “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.” And do you remember God’s reply? He said, “No, I have 7,000 others who have never bowed down to Baal!”** (from I Kings 19)

And remember, during the coming Tribulation period, 144,000 Jews will be taking the gospel to all the nations of the world.

**Matthew 24:14 The good news of the Kingdom will be proclaimed in all the world as a testimony to all nations. And then the end will come.**

**5 It is the same today, for a few of the people of Israel have remained faithful because of God’s grace—his undeserved kindness in choosing them. And since it is through God’s kindness, then it is not by their good works. For in that case, God’s grace would not be what it really is—free and undeserved. So this is the situation: Most of the people of Israel have not found the favor of God they are looking for so earnestly. A few have—the ones God has chosen—but the hearts of the rest were hardened. As the Scriptures say, “God has put them into a deep sleep. To this day he has shut their eyes so they do not see, and closed their ears so they do not hear.”**

God's sovereign plan has always been to set aside a remnant blinding the rest. They have been blinded with greed, money, and self-righteousness...which is likely what Mark was referring to with...

**Mark 2:22 “No one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the wine would burst the wineskins, and the wine and the skins would both be lost. New wine calls for new wineskins.”**—The new wine refers to God’s people, now in Christ.

**9 Likewise, David said, “Let their bountiful table become a snare, a trap that makes them think all is well. Let their blessings cause them to stumble, and let them get what they deserve.**

**Matthew 22:1-14 Jesus also told them other parables. He said, “The Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a king who prepared a great wedding feast for his son. When the banquet was ready, he sent his servants to notify those who were invited. But they all refused to come! So he sent other servants to tell them,**

The feast has been prepared. The bulls and fattened cattle have been killed, and everything is ready. Come to the banquet!"

5 But the guests he had invited ignored them and went their own way, one to his farm, another to his business. Others seized his messengers and insulted them and killed them. The king was furious, and he sent out his army to destroy the murderers and burn their town. And he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, and the guests I invited aren't worthy of the honor. Now go out to the street corners and invite everyone you see.' So the servants brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike, and the banquet hall was filled with guests.

11 "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

The invited guests (Jews) asked to be excused. David was aware that feast and peace offerings were times of eating with God! It was at the "table" with Jesus where eating with the Son of God was an honor but also where betrayal came through Judas.

**10 Let their eyes go blind so they cannot see, and let their backs be bent forever."** Total rejection would become the betrayal for the Jews until the day when they accept Jesus as their Messiah, and take His message to all the world. What a day that will be!

**Zech 12:10 MSG** "Next I'll deal with the family of David and those who live in Jerusalem. I'll pour a spirit of grace and prayer over them. They'll then be able to recognize me as the One they so grievously wounded—that piercing spear-thrust! And they'll weep—oh, how they'll weep! Deep mourning as of a parent grieving the loss of the firstborn child." So...

**11 Did God's people stumble and fall beyond recovery? Of course not! They were disobedient, so God made salvation available to the Gentiles. But he wanted his own people to become jealous and claim it for themselves. Now if the Gentiles were enriched because the people of Israel turned down God's offer of salvation, think how much greater a blessing the world will share when they finally accept it.**

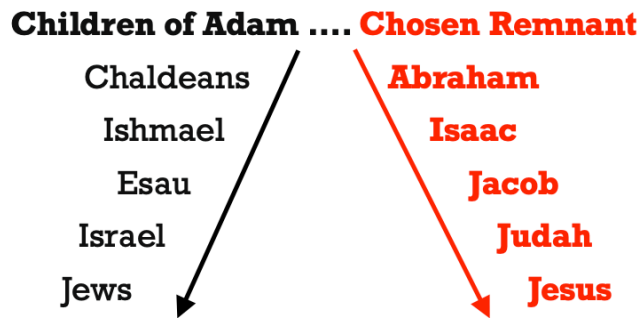
If we are rich at the expense of the Jews, how much richer when Jews claim Christ?

**13 I am saying all this especially for you Gentiles. God has appointed me as the apostle to the Gentiles. I stress this, for I want somehow to make the people of Israel jealous of what you Gentiles have, so I might save some of them. For since their rejection meant that God offered salvation to the rest of the world, their acceptance will be even more wonderful. It will be life for those who were dead!**

All but the chosen remnant in Israel have been hardened—1. To let the Gentiles in, 2. To let the Jews see God's mercy, and 3. To provoke the Jew to jealousy. Fascinating how God accomplishes His plans!

**16 And since Abraham and the other patriarchs were holy, their descendants will also be holy—just as the entire batch of dough is holy because the portion given as an offering is holy. For if the roots of the tree are holy, the branches will be, too.**

The definition of remnant is: a small minority of people who will remain faithful to God and be saved. Paul often refers to the “chosen” of Israel, as a “remnant” group from God’s chosen nation. Thus, there will be a remnant of Israel, and a remnant from the Gentiles. In Charles Swindoll’s commentary of Romans, he uses the following simple illustration.



In the next Musing, we’ll see how God’s plan now includes the believing Gentiles, and how He has grafted us into His Tree of Life for all eternity.