

Study of Romans 11
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*Romans 11:1 I say then, Has Elohim cast away His people? In this context, who is Paul talking about when he says Has Elohim cast away His people? Paul is talking about the people of Elohim, the Israelites, who were at that time and still are called Jews, and they were considered *the people of Elohim*, when Messiah walked on this earth. So how does Paul answer the question, *Has Elohim cast away His people?* Paul says, *Elohim forbid. For, I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 Elohim has not cast away His people which He foreknew.**

Now please stop and think for a moment, to grasp and understand what Paul is saying here. Paul is equating the Jews of his day ***as the people of Elohim***, and indeed he is correct for they are the people of Elohim, and he says that Elohim ***HAS NOT cast them away***. As you know, I believe and teach that our heavenly Father has told us in the Scriptures that He does not change, *Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8; James 1:17* and therefore what he said to Abraham, to Moses and to Paul is still very true and valid today. Over the years Christianity has mistreated and oppressed and in many cases killed our Jewish brethren for their beliefs, and they are still doing it today; antisemitism is alive and even flourishing in just about every country in the world. However according to Paul, the Jews that believe and follow the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still Elohim's people; and Paul emphatically states that Elohim ***HAS NOT cast them away***. In *Romans 8:28-29* it says, *we know that all things work together for good to them that love Elohim, to them who are the called according to His (YHVH's) purpose. 29 For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestine to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.*

Here in these verses above, Paul says that the people that Elohim ***foreknew, He predestined them to be conformed to the image of His Son***, our Messiah and in *verse 2 of Romans 11* Paul says that Elohim ***has NOT cast away His people which He foreknew***. Our Jewish brethren, those that believe and obey the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are still, and will always be part of Elohim's chosen people, part of the people that Elohim foreknew, and they are indeed called according to Elohim's purposes. Again I have to ask you to please understand what Paul is saying, he says that the Jews, who believe in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are ***PREDESTINED to BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, our Messiah***. Now that statement alone, from Paul, should be enough to stop all the anti-Semitism in the world, but I know it won't. What this is saying is that our all knowing, omniscient and omnipotent Elohim foreknows that ***JUDAH***, our Jewish brother, those that believe in and obey Him, ***WILL BE*** conformed to the ***IMAGE OF MESSIAH***. My friends, again I have to emphasize that ***it is so important that we understand what Paul is saying***; this is the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the Elohim that we, the believers in Messiah, the Living Torah, believe is omniscient, and this omniscient Elohim says that our brother ***JUDAH, WILL BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON OUR MESSIAH***. O what a wonderful, loving, merciful, just and compassionate Elohim we serve.

Verse 2 Don't you know what the scripture says of Elijah? How he makes intercession to YHVH against Israel, saying, 3 YHVH, they have killed Your prophets, and dug down Your altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 4 But what saith the answer of Elohim unto him? I have reserved to Myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

Here Paul is quoting *1Kings 19:1-18* to demonstrate to us that Elohim has always, and will always have a remnant of His people Israel to carry out His work, and the number mentioned is Seven thousand. The number seven speaks of Spiritual perfection and completeness. Elohim's plan of salvation is perfect, and it will come to fruition in His Timing.

Paul continues on and says *verse 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace*. What does Paul mean by the words, ***a remnant according to the election of grace?*** Before I can answer that I have to give you a little background.

Deuteronomy 5:29 O that there were such a heart in them, that they would fear Me, and keep all My commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Matthew 19:17 And Messiah said unto him, why do you call me good? There is none good but One, that is God: but if you will enter into life, keep the commandments.

Romans 3:23 says For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of Elohim;

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of Elohim is eternal life through Yeshua Messiah our Lord, the Living Torah.

As we read these verses we can conclude that **ALL** of Elohim's people have never really truly listened, they have **NOT** learned to Shemah His Words, (the word shemah means, hear, listen, understand, obey and do) and kept His commandments in the manner that He wanted and or commanded us to do, therefore the Scriptures tell us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of Elohim, because sin **IS** transgression of the Torah (*1John 3:4*).

What is *the glory Elohim* that we have fallen short of? The word glory is the Hebrew word Kavod, כבוד, which means weighty, such as the Word of Elohim which contains the heavy or weightier matters of life. *Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the Torah (Law), judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone.*

The Hebrew word Kavod is a sister word to the word kaved, כבד, which means liver. The liver is apparently the heaviest organ in the body, and not only that, but, like the Word of Elohim it also filters out all the impurities that are in the blood, the impurities that could cause us harm, just like the Word of Elohim will filter out all the impurities in our lives and put us on the path to salvation. Therefore we can conclude that Elohim's glory is His unchanging, inerrant and everlasting Word, which represents the character and the purity of Elohim Himself, and it sustains all physical life, and gives us eternal life, when obeyed with contrite loving, surrendered, and obedient hearts.

Now that we have an understanding of whom we truly are and what we deserve, we can see that it is only by Elohim's grace that we are redeemed and set on a path to eternal salvation, it is a gift from a loving, caring, compassionate Father that does not want any of His children to perish. ***A remnant according to the election of Grace***, means that it is only by Elohim's grace that any of us have a second chance to turn to Him, with surrendered obedient hearts, turn to Him with our whole mind, soul and strength, and are given the opportunity to repent and return to His ways, His paths of righteousness.

Now Paul explains that grace cannot be attained by works, it is a gift, and if a gift is worked for, then it is no longer a gift, but wages for the work that has been done. So to get the picture that Paul is

trying to paint here, we have to understand that **NONE of us** deserve to live, and it is **ONLY** by Elohim's grace that any one of us are given this opportunity to spend eternity with Him.

Here in *verse 7* Paul poses the people of Rome and us a question, He says *verse 7* *What then? Israel has **NOT** obtained that which he seeks for; but the election has obtained it, and the rest were blinded.*

Although there were many that turned to the Messiah and believed His message of repentance, many did not, and here Paul says that **Israel** did not obtain what it sought for, but that the *election, or the elect* did. Again I ask you, whom are the elect that Paul is talking about in these verses in the book of Romans? The elect are those that have willingly chosen to believe the Words of YHVH, the believers, and in the book of *Acts*, James and the other elders said after that they had heard Paul speak in *Acts 21:21* *Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of **Jews there are which believe**; and they are all zealous of the Torah (Law):*

So in the book of *Acts* we see that the believers were mostly Jews. Therefore what Paul is saying is that not all of Israel believed, because many were blinded in part by their unbelief. Their unbelief came from years of **religious teaching**, teaching that had added to and taken away from the Word of YHVH, therefore many were blind to the truth, the Torah, and could not or would not believe Messiah's message of the purity of YHVH's inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, His Torah of life, **but believed their religious leaders instead**. Paul continues on and says *verse 8* *(According as it is written, Elohim has given them the spirit of slumber, **eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;**) unto this day.* Paul goes as far as to quote what David said about his stiff necked people. *Verse 9* *And David says, let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumbling block, and a recompense unto them: 10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back always.*

Because of their rebellion, stubbornness and disobedience, many of Israel had their hearts hardened. It is very important that we understand what our just and gracious YHVH has done to these people when it says that their heart were hardened. We have to understand that YHVH took what He found in their hearts, and simply magnified or increased the condition that He found imbedded there in their hearts.

Now we see the grace of Elohim come to the forefront and we can see, that when YHVH says it is His wish that none would perish, that He truly means it. *Verse 11* *I say then, **Have they** (meaning those whose hearts have been hardened) **stumbled that they should fall? Elohim forbid: but rather, through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.***

So here we see that Paul tells us that Elohim has **NOT** forsaken our Jewish brothers, and that they have only stumbled and not fallen down, in the sense that this Greek word means. The Greek word *fall* in this *verse* is the word *pepto*, πίπτω, and it is translated from the Hebrew word *Mot*, מוֹת, which means death. In *Romans 8:28* Paul says, *And we know that all things work together for good to them who love Elohim, to them who are the called according to His purpose.* So if they have not fallen as is understood by Paul's words in this particular *verse*, then that means they are being used according to Elohim's purposes, **that through their stumbling salvation would come unto the Gentiles.**

Verse 12 *Now if the fall* (here the word *fall* is a completely different word and shows the bias of the translator. The Greek word used here is Strong's number **G3900**, παράπτωμα, paraptōma, *par-ap'*-

to-mah; From G3895; a *side slip (lapse or deviation)*, that is, (**unintentional**) *error* or (wilful) *transgression*: - fall, fault, offence, sin, trespass).

A responsible translator would have translated these *verses* by writing, *verse 11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall, pepto, die? Elohim forbid: but rather through their fall, (Paraptoma) their unintentional error, salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them, our Israel/Judah brothers, to jealousy. 12 Now if their fall (Paraptoma) their unintentional error or sin or offence and or trespass are the riches of the world, and their diminishing, hettema, (unintentional failure) becomes the riches of the Gentiles; HOW MUCH MORE their fullness?*

We owe our brother Judah a debt that we can never repay, unless we choose to willingly surrender our hearts to the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and decide to become obedient to YHVH's teaching and instructions, His Life Giving Torah, thereby bringing Judah to jealousy and having YHVH graft Judah back into the family of Elohim where he belongs. This is very exciting for me, because when I keep the commandments of YHVH in the manner that He has prescribed, ***I know I am being used according to YHVH's purposes***, and furthermore, I know I am helping to bring my brother Judah back into the family of Elohim by my obedience to YHVH's teaching and instructions, His Torah of Life. ***What a humbling privilege to be permitted to do for Judah what Judah has done for us for millennia.***

Now Paul pours out his heart and shows us the love that he has for His Jewish brethren. In *verse 12*, Paul says, *Now if the fall, Paraptoma of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing hettema of them are the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness? 13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify my office: 14 IF by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. 15 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?*

These are some of the most beautiful *verses* in all of Scripture. Paul's heart is with and for his brothers and ours, the Jews, and yet he is being obedient to Elohim by ministering to the Gentiles, all the while praying that His Jewish brothers will see and understand this great message, this good news, called the Gospel. It is easy to see what Paul's heart's desire is, that all of His Jewish brothers would turn to our heavenly Father and His Son in surrendered obedience, and I truly believe that they will one day. However ***the responsibility to show them the way rests squarely on our shoulders***, for our mandate from Elohim is that we are to make ***OUR BROTHER JUDAH JEALOUS***, and we can only do that by keeping and obeying the Words of our heavenly Father's Torah of Life, by following exactly what His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions tell us to do, in the very same manner that Messiah did and taught us, therefore let us ***MAGNIFY*** our ***Mandate*** that we received directly from the mouth of YHVH, and learn to truly and wholly turn our hearts to Him, in complete loving surrendered obedience to all the Words of His Torah of Life. Amen

Verse 16 For if the firstfruit be holy, who is the firstfruit? Messiah is the firstfruit and Messiah is from the tribe of Judah, Messiah is a Jew and Paul told us in Acts 21:21 You see, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are who believe; and they are all zealous of the Torah (Law). Therefore if Messiah, the firstfruit is Holy, then according to the Torah of *like kind* in the beginning of creation, all those that follow in His footsteps, are also holy, and in *Acts 21* we see that ***many thousands of Jews believed*** and they are the ***first lump*** which is also holy.

*Verse 16 For if the firstfruit be holy **the lump (our Jewish Brethren)** is also holy: and if the root (YHVH/Messiah) be holy, so are the branches (Judah). 17 And if some of the branches (Judah) be broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree (Ephraim), were grafted in among them, and **WITH THEM** (that is with our Jewish brethren) partake of the root (YHVH/Messiah) and fatness of the olive tree; 18 **Boast not against the branches (Judah). But if you boast, you bare not the root (YHVH/Messiah), but the root (YHVH/Messiah) carries you.***

What Paul is saying in these *verses* is that salvation is a gift my friends, a gift from our heavenly Father and His Son our Saviour, and we are not to boast about it, but instead thank our heavenly Father for what He has done for all of us and we are to thank our brother Judah and all that Judah has done for thousands of years by keeping the Holy Scriptures for us to have and cherish as our own.

Paul now makes a comment and tells us to beware that we do not become haughty and look down our noses at Judah or any other person for that matter, because our salvation is also based on Elohim's grace and not on anything we have, will, or can ever do, and if we do not continue walking in YHVH's Grace, His Torah, (for Grace and Torah are synonymous terms), if we do not continue walking in Elohim's Grace we too will be cut off. *Verse 19 You will say then, the branches were broken off, **that I** might be grafted in. 20 Well said; **because of unbelief** they were broken off, and you stand by belief. **Do NOT be not high minded, but fear:** 21 For, if Elohim did **NOT** spare the natural branches, **take heed lest He also does NOT spare you.** 22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of Elohim: on them which fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, **IF you continue in HIS goodness: otherwise you also shall be cut off.***

As you read and re-read these *verses* please pay very close attention to the word **IF** for it is critical to everyone's salvation.

*Verse 23 And they also (meaning our Jewish brethren), if they abide **NOT** still in unbelief, **SHALL all be grafted in: for Elohim is able to graft them in again.** 24 For if **YOU** were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree (Israel, YHVH's family): how **MUCH MORE** shall these, Judah, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

Here in *Romans 11:25* Paul makes a comment and tells us to beware that we do not become haughty and look down our noses at Judah our Jewish brothers, because YHVH says that blindness has come upon Judah in **PART**, which means that it is a partial blindness and that this partial blindness **IS curable** or easily lifted by YHVH in His timing. We are to realize that our salvation is also based on Elohim's grace and not on anything we have, will, or can ever do, and **IF** we do not continue walking in YHVH's Grace, which is the Words of His Torah of Life, (for YHVH's Grace and the Words of His Torah of life, **ARE** synonymous terms), **IF** we do not continue walking in Elohim's Grace, walking in loving surrendered obedience to the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life, **THEN** we too will be cut off. What is said in *verses 19* through *22* bears repeating: and as we repeat these words insert your own name to make this a personal prayer. *Verse 19 You (Marc) will say then, the branches were broken off, that **I** (Marc) might be grafted in. 20 Well said; **because of unbelief** they (Judah) were broken off, and*

you (Marc) stand by believing My Words. **Do NOT be high-minded however, but fear:** 21 For, **if** Elohim **did NOT** spare the natural branches, take heed lest He also does NOT spare **YOU** (Marc). 22 Behold therefore the **GOODNESS** and **SEVERITY** of Elohim: on them which fell (Judah), **SEVERITY**; but toward **YOU** (Marc), **GOODNESS, IF, YOU** (Marc) continue in His goodness: otherwise **YOU** (Marc) also shall be cut off.

As I said above the people are compared to branches and Paul says that some branches who were **NOT** part of the good olive tree, but are from the wild olive tree are grafted in to the family of Elohim **by Belief (Faith)**, and those that were natural branches and part of the good olive tree, but were **without Belief (Faith)** were broken off. Next we see that Paul gives advice to those that have been grafted into the good olive tree, it is a very stern warning about being highminded and think to ourselves that we are something special and that that is why we were grafted into the good olive tree. Paul tells us that once we are grafted into the tree, we **MUST, we absolutely MUST** continue in the Goodness of Elohim, and the Goodness of Elohim my friends, is the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions, the Words of His Torah of Life. As we read and re-read these verses, we **MUST** pay very close attention to the word **IF** for it is critical to everyone's salvation.

Verse 23 And they also (meaning our Jewish brethren), **if** they no longer abide in **unbelief, shall be grafted in: for Elohim is able to graft them in again.** 24 For if **YOU** were cut out of the olive tree which is **wild by nature, and were grafted, contrary to nature, into a good olive tree (Yisrael): how much more shall these, which ARE the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?**

There is a very subtle message here that is missed by most people and that is, *if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature, into a good olive tree.* Well if we are grafted into a good olive tree, that means that we came from an olive tree that **wasn't** so good, and that olive tree my friends is called *the tree of the knowledge of good and evil*, which is the tree of mixture that is used by the enemy to confuse us. It is a tree where lies and deception are found mixed in with enough truth to make it believable to most people. What we must learn to realize, **IS** that when we are grafted into the tree of Life, called the good olive tree, the family of Elohim, it means that we have been taken out of the enemy's camp by Elohim's grace, and we have been grafted into the household of our heavenly Father, by His grace and mercy only, and not by anything that we have done, so that we can **SERVE His PURPOSES.**

Now Paul says something that we all have to understand and learn to truly believe in our hearts, for he is speaking of the condition of Elohim's heart with these words, *verse 25 For I would not, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, (and how long will that partial blindness last?) until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.* 26 And so **ALL Israel shall be saved: as it is written, there shall come out of Tzion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:** (ungodliness, is anything that transgresses the Word of YHVH's Torah of Life). In this context the name Jacob means the restored house or family of Elohim, both the Northern and Southern Kingdoms restored as one entity, (*Jeremiah 31:31, Hebrews 8:8-12*) and please understand, that it does **NOT** include anyone else, it does **NOT** include those who follow and obey the doctrines of Christianity, Judaism, Catholicism, or any man made religions 27 For this is **MY COVENANT unto them** (as I mentioned above, YHVH's covenant **IS ONLY** with Judah and Yisrael, the whole house of Jacob), **when I shall**

take away their Sins, their transgressions of the Words of My Torah of Life. 28 As concerning the Gospel (the TRUTH, the Words of My Torah of Life), they are enemies for YOUR sake: but as touching the election, they (Judah) are beloved for the Fathers' sake.

Please understand in your heart, that when you learn to love Israel and our Jewish brethren, you are lining up your heart with Elohim's heart, for the Jews that believe in the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are indeed **part of Elohim's family** and it is high time that they come home. Therefore, let us be obedient to our heavenly Father's calling, by obeying all the Words of His inerrant and everlasting teaching and instructions with such passion, that it makes Judah, our brother, jealous enough, to return to YHVH's ancient paths, the Words of His written Torah of Life.

In conclusion Paul reiterates for us the incredible debt that we owe our brother Judah and what we are to do about it. *Verse 29 For the gifts and calling of Elohim are without repentance. 30 For as YOU in times past have NOT BELIEVED Elohim, yet have NOW obtained mercy through their (Yehudah's) unbelief: 31 Even so have these (Judah) also now NOT BELIEVED, that through YOUR MERCY they also may obtain mercy. 32 For Elohi has concluded them all in unbelief, that He might HAVE MERCY UPON ALL.*

YHVH is telling us, the people of His family, Israel, of whom you and I, and all people who choose to believe, follow and obey the Words of His Torah of Life, are part of, He is telling us through these verses that we are to have mercy on our brother Judah, because we have obtained mercy from Elohim, and we obtained mercy from Elohim **BECAUSE** of our brother Judah's unbelief. YHVH uses **all of our mistakes**, both Judah and Ephraim's mistakes, and by His foreknowledge designed a plan whereby all of Israel, meaning all that believe in the Elohim of Abraham Isaac and Jacob, the Holy One of Israel, with all their hearts, minds, souls and strength **WILL BE SAVED**.

Now Paul concludes this chapter with such beautiful words, that I cannot add anything to it. *33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable are His judgments, and His Ways past finding out! 34 For WHO has known the mind of YHVH? Or WHO has been His counsellor? 35 Or WHO has first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? 36 For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are ALL things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

Studying and keeping Torah together as a community.

Have a great Elohim blessed week and may Yahweh bless your every thought, and your every deed. Until we meet again, שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵיכֶם, Shalom Aleykem. Ameinn