



God's Unstoppable Plan

Lesson 14 | Romans 11:1-24

Does it ever seem like God's program has failed? Believers are often disappointed and at times disillusioned when they see what looks like the work of God falling apart. Paul was addressing Jews who couldn't understand why Israel had rejected the Messiah. Paul's answers help all of us when it seems like God's plan hasn't succeeded.

God Still Has a Remnant in Israel (11:1-10)

_____ : God has saved some Jews.

Paul once again anticipates how some might misunderstand him by thinking he is saying God is done with Israel. He makes it abundantly clear that is not what he is saying, but how can this be? If the Jews have rejected the gospel, how has God not rejected His people? Paul answers that God has saved some Jews, including himself.

_____ : God reminded Elijah there was a remnant.

God has often worked through a remnant. Paul reminds his listeners of this fact by recounting the story of Elijah. Elijah had become discouraged and felt that he was alone, just as God's children throughout the ages have often felt as if they were the only ones left. God's answer to Elijah and to us is that there is a whole lot going on that we don't know about.

_____ : God has chosen a remnant.

Finally, Paul builds on the idea of a chosen remnant by emphasizing the importance of grace. Just as he did near the end of chapter 9, he demonstrates that those who are part of the small band that God has



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Finally, Paul builds on the idea of a chosen remnant by emphasizing the importance of grace. Just as he did near the end of chapter 9, he demonstrates that those who are part of the small band that God has

saved and is working through didn't receive that position by doing good works. Those chosen as God's people are chosen because of God's grace alone. You can't be good enough or righteous enough to earn a place in the kingdom. Those who reject God's grace and instead try to live good enough by their works will be disappointed.

God Has a Future Plan for Ethnic Israel (11:11-24)

God has future plan that includes salvation for all Israel. This means both that God will fulfill His promises and that we should stay humble and desire the salvation of the Jewish people.

God Plan plans to use the _____ to win Israel back.

God loves to take unexpected twists in carrying out His plans. Israel's rejection of the Messiah unexpectedly led to God releasing the blessings of the gospel to the nations. Yet the goal of this releasing of the blessings was to provoke Israel to jealousy so that she would come back to the Lord. If Israel's rejection of the Messiah led to such blessing, how much better will things be once they accept the gospel?

Gentiles should beware becoming _____ of their election.

Instead of being a light and showing the other nations the greatness of their God, Israel had become arrogant and self-focused. Now the roles had been switched. The Gentiles had received the gospel and the Jews found themselves on the outside of God's current work in the world. Yet what happened to Israel could also happen to the church. As Israel had once become arrogant in their position, so the church might look down on Israel out of a misplaced sense of spiritual superiority.

To disillusioned Jews who were ready to accept Jesus but had a hard time believing because Israel had rejected Him, Paul taught that God always works with a remnant and God has a future plan. For Christians living in the 21st century who wonder why God's plan doesn't seem to be going forward, we can take comfort in these same truths.

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