

## ROMANS CHAPTER 11

### The Olive Tree, the Mystery of Yisra'El, and the Restoration of the Covenant People

Romans Chapter 11 brings Sha'ul's argument concerning Yisra'El, the nations, and the covenant promises to its great conclusion. Romans 9 asked the question: **Has the Word of YaHuWaH failed because many in Yisra'El have not received Messiah?** Romans 10 explained: **The problem was not the faithfulness of YaHuWaH, nor was it a failure of Torah. The issue was mankind's response to the righteousness revealed through Messiah.** Romans 11 now reveals the mystery: **YaHuWaH has not rejected His people.** Instead, He is working through Messiah to restore His covenant purposes, bringing together the natural branches and the wild branches into one covenant olive tree. This chapter is foundational for understanding the restoration of the whole house of Yisra'El. It addresses one of the greatest misunderstandings that developed later in history: the idea that YaHuWaH replaced Yisra'El with another people. Sha'ul directly rejects that concept.

### Has Elohim Rejected His People?

Sha'ul begins with a direct question:

**"I ask then, has Elohim rejected His people? Let it not be! For I also am a Yisra'Elite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Binyamin."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:1

Sha'ul begins by answering the question before explaining the mystery. No. YaHuWaH has not rejected His people. His own identity is evidence. Sha'ul is a Yisra'Elite. He identifies himself by covenant lineage. He does not say: "I used to be Yisra'El, but now I belong to something completely different." The covenant identity remains.

### The Remnant According to Favor

Sha'ul continues:

**"Elohim has not rejected His people whom He knew beforehand."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:2

The phrase "knew beforehand" carries covenant significance. The Hebrew concept of knowing, **yada** (יָדָע), is more than awareness. It describes relational knowledge. YaHuWaH "knowing" Yisra'El means a covenant relationship.

Amos declared:

**"You only have I known of all the clans of the earth..."** - Amos 3:2

This does not mean YaHuWaH lacked information about other nations. It means He entered a covenant relationship with Yisra'El. The covenant calling remains.

### The Example of Elijah

Sha'ul references Elijah:

**"יהוה, they have killed Your prophets and they have demolished Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:3

During the days of Elijah, it appeared that Yisra'El had completely fallen away. The northern kingdom had embraced rebellion. False worship had spread.

Yet YaHuWaH told Elijah:

**"Yet I have left for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Ba'al."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:4

The lesson is clear: Human perception does not determine YaHuWaH's faithfulness. Even when covenant people are scattered or disobedient, YaHuWaH preserves a remnant.

### **The Remnant Principle Throughout Scripture**

The remnant is a consistent theme throughout the prophets. Noah was a remnant. Abraham was a remnant. Yisra'El leaving Mitsrayim was a remnant. The faithful in exile were a remnant. The prophets repeatedly spoke of restoration through a preserved people.

Isaiah declared:

**"For though your people, O Yisra'El, be as the sand of the sea, only a remnant of them shall return."** - Yeshayahu (Isaiah) 10:22

The remnant does not mean YaHuWaH abandoned His covenant. It demonstrates His faithfulness within covenant discipline.

### **The Stumbling and the Purpose of It**

Sha'ul writes:

**"What then? Yisra'El has not obtained what it seeks, but the chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:7

This statement must be understood carefully. Sha'ul is not saying Yisra'El was permanently rejected. The hardening is part of the unfolding of YaHuWaH's plan.

He continues:

**"Have they stumbled so as to fall completely? Let it not be! But through their fall, deliverance has come to the nations, to provoke them to jealousy."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:11

This is a critical verse. The stumbling was not the final destination. It became an instrument through which YaHuWaH brought the nations near.

### **The Jealousy of Restoration**

The concept of jealousy here is connected to covenant restoration. The Hebrew word **qinah** (קנאה) can describe passionate concern for a relationship. YaHuWaH describes Himself as a jealous Elohim because He is faithful to covenant. When Yisra'El pursued other mighty ones, YaHuWaH called them back. The purpose of bringing the nations near was not to replace Yisra'El. It was to provoke restoration.

Moses prophesied:

**"They have made Me jealous by what is not Elohim; they have provoked Me with their worthless idols. So I make them jealous by those who are not a people; I provoke them by a foolish nation."** - Debarim (Deuteronomy) 32:21

Sha'ul is drawing from this prophetic pattern.

### **The Olive Tree Picture**

Sha'ul introduces the olive tree:

**"And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and came to share the root and fatness of the olive tree..."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:17

The olive tree represents covenant relationship. The root represents the promises given through the fathers. The natural branches represent covenant Yisra'El. The wild branches represent those from the nations being brought near. The important point: The wild branches do not become a different tree. They are grafted into the existing tree.

### **The Root Supports the Branches**

Sha'ul warns:

**"Do not boast against the branches. And if you boast, remember: you do not support the root, but the root supports you."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:18

This directly challenges replacement theology. The nations do not replace Yisra'El. They are sustained by the covenant promises given to the fathers. The root came first. The promises came first. The Messiah came through Yisra'El. The Scriptures came through Yisra'El. The covenant foundation comes from YaHuWaH's relationship with His people.

### **The Danger of Pride**

Sha'ul warns:

**"Do not become proud, but fear."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:20

The fear of YaHuWaH is a foundational biblical concept. The Hebrew word **yirah** (יראה) means reverence, awe, and submission. A restored covenant people must walk humbly. The nations being brought near are not given permission to despise the branches that carried the covenant promises.

### **The Fullness of the Nations**

Sha'ul writes:

**"For I do not wish you to be ignorant of this secret, brothers, lest you should be wise in your own estimation, that hardening in part has come upon Yisra'El until the completeness of the nations has come in."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:25

This is the mystery. The Greek word *mysterion* refers to something previously hidden but now revealed. What is the mystery? That YaHuWaH is restoring His covenant family through Messiah.

The fullness of the nations is connected to the promise given to Abraham:

**"And I shall make you exceedingly fruitful, and make you become nations, and sovereigns shall come from you."** - Bereshith (Genesis) 17:6

The nations were always part of the plan.

### **All Yisra'El Shall Be Saved**

Sha'ul declares:

**"And so all Yisra'El shall be saved, as it has been written: 'The Deliverer shall come out of Tsiyon, and He shall turn away wickedness from Ya'aqob.'" - Romiyim (Romans) 11:26**

This verse has generated much discussion. What does "all Yisra'El" mean? Within Sha'ul's argument, it refers to the covenant restoration of YaHuWaH's people. Not every individual Yisra'Elite throughout history automatically receives deliverance. Rather, YaHuWaH's covenant promise concerning Yisra'El reaches its intended fulfillment through Messiah. The Deliverer comes from Tsiyon. He turns away wickedness from Ya'aqob. This is prophetic restoration language.

## **The Covenant Promise Remains**

Sha'ul writes:

**"For the gifts and the calling of Elohim are not to be repented of."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:29

This is one of the clearest statements regarding covenant faithfulness. YaHuWaH does not abandon His purposes. His calling remains. His promises remain. His covenant remains. Human failure does not overthrow divine faithfulness.

## **Mercy Upon All**

Sha'ul concludes:

**"For Elohim has shut them all up to disobedience, in order that He might have compassion on all."** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:32

The purpose of revealing mankind's failure is not destruction. It is mercy. Both Yisra'El and the nations stand in need of YaHuWaH's compassion. No group has reason to boast. All come through His mercy.

## **The Doxology: The Wisdom of YaHuWaH**

Sha'ul ends with praise:

**"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of Elohim! How unsearchable His judgments and untraceable His ways!"** - Romiyim (Romans) 11:33

After explaining the mystery of covenant restoration, Sha'ul does not boast in human understanding. He worships. The restoration plan belongs to YaHuWaH.

## **Romans 11 and the Restoration of the Whole House of Yisra'El**

Romans 11 is one of the strongest passages against the idea that YaHuWaH replaced Yisra'El. Sha'ul's picture is not a new tree replacing an old tree. It is one olive tree. The root remains. The covenant promises remain. The natural branches remain. The wild branches are grafted in. Together they participate in the promises given through Abraham. This connects directly to the prophetic picture of the two houses becoming one.

Ezekiel declared:

**"And make them one stick, and they shall be one in My hand."** - Yehezq'el (Ezekiel) 37:19

The restoration is not the creation of a new people. It is the restoration of what was divided.

## **Conclusion of Romans Chapter 11**

Romans 11 reveals the faithfulness of YaHuWaH. He has not forgotten Yisra'El. He has not abandoned His covenant. He has not replaced His promises. Through Messiah Yahusha, YaHuWaH is restoring His covenant family. The nations are invited into the olive tree. The natural branches are being restored. The root remains. The promises remain. The purpose remains. YaHuWaH is gathering, healing, and restoring His people according to His eternal plan. Romans 12 will now transition from the Hebraic foundation of redemption into the practical life of the restored covenant people: how those who have received mercy are to live as a set-apart people before YaHuWaH.