



Jewish Believers and Christians working together for Israel's salvation since 1963



Kevin Geoffrey
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Shalom my friend! We are continuing with our look at Romans 9, 10 and 11. Last month, as we began Chapter 11, we saw Paul addressing the question of whether or not God has ever—or would ever—push away His Jewish people. Starting with his own Jewish pedigree, Paul begins to demonstrate God's eternal faithfulness to Israel,

especially in the way He has always preserved a remnant when the rest of Israel had turned away. What validates God's promise in this matter is that He will only choose to preserve His people based on *unmerited favor*—He will never allow a Jewish person's actions to determine whether He will, or whether He will not, keep His word.

The Chosenness of Israel

This being the case, Paul immediately sets out in Romans 11:7-10 with a warning not to take this unmerited favor for granted.

What then? What יִשְׂרָאֵל, Yis'rael searches after, this it did not obtain, but the chosen did obtain *it*, and the remaining were hardened, as it has been written, "God gave to them a רוּחַ, ruach of deep sleep, eyes not to see, and ears not to hear, to this very day." And דָּוִד, David says, "Let their table become to them for a snare, and for a trap, and for a stumbling-block, and for a retribution. Let their eyes be darkened, to not see, and *make* their back always bend down."

Striking an ominous tone, Paul suddenly states the fullness of Israel's failure. In a shocking contrast, he draws a stark distinction between all the people of Israel and Israel's remnant—to whom he now transfers the title, "chosen." This should cause us a great deal of consternation, as Paul makes it clear that Israel as a whole has forfeited their chosen status to the smaller subset of the

remaining chosen ones—the Jewish followers of the Messiah Yeshua. That chosenness through unmerited favor, which Israel searches after, she could not obtain; yet the chosen ones of Israel did obtain it... and the rest were hardened in their hearts and minds. This is the fate for every Jew whose belief hangs in the balance, who does not turn to Messiah: he will be deaf, blind and defiant toward the salvation that God has so graciously stored up for His treasured people. In place of being chosen, he will instead receive retribution.

Not Without Hope

But all is not lost for ensnared, stumbling Israel! Thankfully, Paul immediately turns from his foreboding admonition to offer a glimmer of hope for Israel—indeed, the fullness of hope for the world.



I say *this*, then: "Did they stumble so that they might fall?" Let it not be! But by their misstep, the salvation *is* come to the גוֹיִם, Goyim [Gentiles] to arouse Yis'rael to jealousy. And if their misstep *is* the riches of the world, and their diminishing *is* the riches of the גוֹיִם, Goyim, how much more *will* their fullness *be*? (11:11-12)

Despite the certainty of unbelieving Israel's fate, Paul reveals that



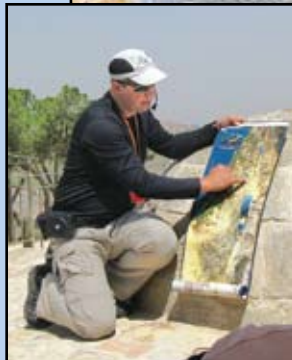
Update from Israel

I recently heard from our ministry friend, Baruch, who told me about the opportunities he has had to meet people's needs and tell them about Yeshua. He said, "Not long ago, I was asked to guide an evangelistic tour for another Messianic organization. I was able to proclaim the Good News of Yeshua while sharing about our land and its history, and then others in the team continued to talk to the people more privately.

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"I also took part in an outreach trip that our congregation organized. We took about 500 new immigrants from several cities to a meeting in Jerusalem with an evangelist, and then continued throughout the country, visiting biblical sites and sharing one-on-one. I guided a group of fifty people, leading them through the biblical history and inspiring them to read the Bible personally. I tried to connect those newcomers with the ancient roots of their ancestors, and to lead them to faith in Yeshua.

"And of course, I didn't forget our local 'sheep,' as I worked in our outreach center to serve the weakest people, and participated in an ongoing project to assist new immigrants. I just feel a privilege to be a part of God's plan of reaching people, and especially the children of Israel."



Israel back toward God and His Messiah. When Israel sees the unmerited favor, love and commitment that God has for a people who are not His people, Israel will be aroused with a fire for their own God, and their hearts toward Yeshua will be softened.

But lest we believe that God thinks less of the reconciled from among the nations—that the Gentiles' salvation was simply and solely for the sake of Israel—Paul is quick to point out what happens next. While it is true that Israel has stumbled, and it is true that through their missteps and diminishing status that the riches of God in Messiah have been bestowed upon the Gentiles, Israel may yet be aroused in their zeal for Messiah by the very same riches that their failure unleashed upon the world. Indeed, as Paul puts it, if Israel's failure led to the riches of the world, "how much more *will* their fullness

be?" The final and complete salvation of those from every nation under heaven will be triggered by the swelling numbers of the remnant comprising all Israel.

My friend, the Jewish people have not misstepped, struggled, been diminished or hardened to the point of falling forever—they can yet be stabilized and set free by giving their lives to the Messiah Yeshua. Indeed, this is why MJMI exists: to tirelessly proclaim the Good

News of Yeshua to the Jewish people.

We greatly need not only your prayers, but also your financial assistance, so that we can continue this critical work. Your donation of **\$10, \$25, \$100 or more** will help us accomplish our mission and vision to see all Israel come to know their Messiah. You can use the enclosed card and envelope, or visit www.mjmi.org to send your much-needed donation today. And if you aren't already, please consider

becoming a ministry partner, so that I will know we can count on your support each month.

Let us continue to pray for the Jewish people, that through their Savior, Yeshua the Messiah, they will return to God and join His chosen remnant!

For the sake of the Messiah,

Kevin Geoffrey, President, MJMI



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even in their current state, they have not yet stumbled to the point of falling forever. Hope remains. This flies in the face of Christian replacement theology, which says that God is done with the Jewish people in favor of the Church. But in fact, while hardened Israel struggles to come to terms with the set conditions for their salvation, that very salvation—the birthright of all Jews everywhere and for all time—has now been made available to the Gentiles. By way of Israel's misstep, any Gentile who follows the Jewish Messiah may become a recipient of the same quality of chosenness that is enjoyed by Israel's remnant.

Arousing Israel to Jealousy

But this selection from among the Gentiles is not without purpose. For, at this point, God does not turn away from Israel to bestow his unmerited favor on another people-group. On the contrary, "the salvation *is* come to the גוים, Goyim [Gentiles] to arouse *Yis'rael* to jealousy." In the course of blessing the people of the nations through the salvation of Yeshua—a blessing that comes by way of Israel's unbelief—the whole reason for that blessing, by God's design, is to turn