

# IX-XI

## Romans

### CHAPTERS 9–11

#### THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL

Paul defends the Gospel in the light of Israel's rejection of the righteousness of God by faith:

- I. Israel's present rejection is not inconsistent with God's promises or God's justice (9:1–29)
- II. Israel itself is responsible for its rejection (9:30–10:21)
- III. Israel's present rejection is neither complete nor final: God always has a remnant (11:1–36)

# The Defense of the Gospel

**A**LTHOUGH CHAPTERS 9–11 COMPRISE A SHORT SECTION of Romans, it is very important and must not be ignored. Chapter eight is arguably one of the most magnificent chapters in all of Scripture from the viewpoint of the follower of Jesus. There is no condemnation (Romans 8:1) and the righteous requirements of the law are fulfilled in those who walk according to the Spirit (8:4). We are indwelt by the Spirit of God, and this guarantees that we also will receive life to our mortal bodies (8:11). Furthermore, we are adopted as sons of God and “heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (8:17). Although in this life there are sufferings and groaning, we look forward to that great day when our bodies will be redeemed (8:18–23). Meantime, we are assured that God is working all things together for our good (8:28). Those whom God justifies he also glorifies (8:30), and Paul finishes chapter eight with this triumphant and glorious note that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord (8:38–39)!

Therefore, it is somewhat of a shock when we read immediately in chapter nine about Paul’s “great sorrow and unceasing anguish” in his heart (Romans 9:2). What can have caused Paul, after such a brilliant survey of the spiritual life in chapter eight, to say that he is willing to be “accursed and cut off from Christ” (9:3)?

## DEALING WITH ISRAEL

After presenting the heart of the Gospel and the hope of the Gospel, Paul must now defend the Gospel against the charge that God has treated Israel unjustly

and has gone back on His promises. He will make it abundantly clear that God is always faithful to His promises, that God is always just, and the promises which were made to ancient Israel will be fulfilled in the future. “And in this way all Israel will be saved” (Romans 11:26).

## GOD’S PURPOSES

Paul is going to trace the purposes of God in the Old Testament, and in so doing he will make it clear that Jesus is the true Messiah and “is God over all, blessed forever” (Romans 9:5). Paul demonstrates that Israel’s failure is not because of God’s unfaithfulness to His promises, but because of Israel’s self-reliance and rejection of the Messiah.

However, Israel’s present rejection of the Messiah is neither complete nor final, because there has always been a remnant of saved Israelites. Paul takes care to make it known that Israel’s present rejection is not final, and that in the future all Israel will be saved. In this way, Paul defends the Gospel and gives God the glory that His wisdom and knowledge are unsearchable and His judgments and ways are inscrutable. “To Him be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:36).

## GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

Now it may be thought that these chapters are unimportant to Gentiles. On the face of it, Paul seems to be dealing with objections and making a defense of matters which do not trouble us at all. But to the contrary, these chapters are very important in demonstrating God’s faithfulness through His Word — and also, that Israel has a future!

It is of vital importance that we keep Israel and the church distinct. “Replacement Theology” claims that the church of Jesus Christ has replaced Israel. But the Old Testament and the New Testament teach that Israel as a nation has a future and this restoration is certain. Praise God! ❀





## THE POTTER AND THE CLAY

The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord: "Arise, and go down to the potter's house, and there I will let you hear my words." So I went down to the potter's house, and there he was working at his wheel. And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter's hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to do.

Then the word of the Lord came to me: "O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done? declares the Lord. Behold, like the clay in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel."

Jeremiah 18:1-6