



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Easter Volunteers** – Many people are needed during our Easter Services to help with making everything run smoothly for our visitors. Please sign up on the app or by clicking the QR code on the screen to help with Good Friday service, Easter Sunday or our Egg Hunts.
- **Candy Needed** – We need bags of individually-wrapped candy for our Kids Ministry Egg Hunt on Easter morning. No EGGS Needed this year! You can buy candy on Amazon and have it shipped straight to the church -- or bring it by the Kids Min, Worship Center Lobby or the Office. Thank you all for always providing what is needed each year!

MY STORY

How thoughtful are we about the promises we give to people?

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at this week's teaching, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

Have a Volunteer Read: Romans 11:1-16

Point #1: God has not rejected HIS PEOPLE ISREAL.

"I'll be straight with you. Romans 11 may be the most difficult chapter in the entire book. And if you just showed up today, right now you may be thinking... 'Great. I came today (DST), and they're talking about God's faithfulness to ancient Israel. How in the world does this apply to my life?' Be patient. It does apply. I promise you. I know you're thinking about school, about your career, about marriage challenges, about the suffering in your life." - **Michael Nolen**

Discuss how these 3 points can help you no matter what you are facing.

1st Point - Romans 11 points us to the absolute faithfulness of God.

2nd Point - Romans 11 is a vivid reminder we are living in a definite story. our lives collectively and with your life individually.

3rd Point - Romans 11 reveals the tremendous privilege it is to belong to God and to be grafted into Jesus' people by faith.

How can these four reasons help us understand how God has not failed to keep his promises?

“Paul says, For I myself am an Israelite... Paul is pointing out that he’s a Jewish believer, and there are many others.” – **Michael Nolen**

1) Personal

“Paul says, God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Paul says the Jews are his people, which is Paul saying they are God’s chosen people. This is the language of salvation. God would not reject the people he had chosen to love from before the foundations of the world. God will not reject those he has saved. And as we saw in Romans 9, there have always been Jewish people who had a relationship with God, and those who didn’t.”

– **Michael Nolen**

2) Theological

“He (Paul) recounts the story of how Elijah the prophet, during a dark time in Israel’s history, was fighting the evil king Ahab and his queen Jezebel. It seemed like everyone had abandoned God and given themselves to the worship of idols like Baal. God’s prophets had been killed. Elijah thought he was the last man standing. He became a fugitive, hunted by Jezebel. He was demoralized and exhausted and he cried out, “I alone am left. Just take my life, God.” But God said, “I still have 7000 believers in Israel.” Paul says, In the same way, God has preserved a remnant of his people. The Jewish nation as a whole may have rejected God, but God always preserves a remnant who still belong to him.” And this has always been true, all throughout the church’s history.” – **Michael Nolen**

3) Biblical

“So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. (ESV) Paul says, ‘Just look around. God has always faithfully preserved a genuine believing remnant throughout the history of his people.’ Paul says, “We can see that in churches all across the Roman Empire, Jewish believers in Jesus their Messiah.” – **Michael Nolen**

4) Contemporary

“Is Israel’s response to the gospel final? (stumble... fall). Not at all. God has used their trespass to open the door for Gentiles to believe. In the book of Acts, the gospel’s spread into new cities follows a pretty predictable pattern... Paul first goes to the local Jewish synagogue and preaches there. The Jewish reaction there is mixed, with a few believing, but most rejecting. This rejection drives the Apostles out of the synagogue to preach in the streets and the marketplaces where they find many Gentiles willing to believe.” – **Michael Nolen**

What is God doing with Israel’s unbelief? (Romans 11:11-12)

“What is so encouraging about what Paul is articulating here is that it reveals that [SLIDE] God uses sinful unbelief. In this case of Israel, to bring about the salvation of the Gentiles. Do you see that? That doesn’t mean that he’s sinful, because he uses sin. It means he is powerful. So powerful that nothing, not even sin, can get in the way of him accomplishing His purposes.” – **Michael Nolen**

How can God still use our broken lives to reach people?

APPLICATION

Spend some time this week asking God to show you his promises to help you get through the difficulties of life.

PRAISES

PRAYER REQUESTS