

Standing In The Shadow Of Empire

Romans 11:1-36

We stand in bold courage confident that our God is the source and sustainer of everything! His kingdom alone endures forever!

I. God sees what you can't see

I ask you this question: Did God really push aside and reject His people? Absolutely not! For I myself am a Jew, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected His chosen, destined people! Haven't you heard Elijah's testimony in the Scriptures, and how He prays to God, agonizing over Israel?

"Lord, they've murdered your prophets; they've demolished your altars. Now I'm the only one left and they want to kill me!"

What was the revelation God spoke to him in response?

Romans 11:1-4

II. God gives what you didn't deserve

Since Abraham and the patriarchs are consecrated and set apart for God, so also will their descendants be set apart. If the roots of a tree are holy and set apart for God, so too will be the branches.

However, some of the branches have been pruned away. And you, who were once nothing more than a wild olive branch in the desert, God has grafted in—inserting you among the remaining branches as a joint partner to share in the wonderful richness of the cultivated olive stem. So don't be so arrogant as to believe that you are superior to the natural branches. There's no reason to boast, for the new branches don't support the root, but you owe your life to the root that supports you!

Romans 11:16-18

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Romans 11:1-36

III. God fulfills what you cannot fathom

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!

*How unsearchable His judgments,
and His paths beyond tracing out!
"Who has known the mind of the Lord?
Or who has been His counselor?"
"Who has ever given to God,
that God should repay them?"
For from Him and through Him
and for Him are all things.
To Him be the glory forever! Amen.*

Romans 11:33-36

*As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the
eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
Instead of the thornbush will grow the pine,
and instead of briers the myrtle will grow.
This will be for the Lord's renown,
for an everlasting sign,
that will endure forever."*

Isaiah 55:10,13