



## UNSEARCHABLE & UNFATHOMABLE

ROMANS 11:1-36 \* JUNE 25, 2023

### UNDERSTANDING THE REMNANT: HAS ISRAEL BEEN FORGOTTEN?

ROMANS 11:1-14

The Old Testament story shares many examples of God bringing \_\_\_\_\_ upon a rebellious majority while \_\_\_\_\_ a faithful minority.

#### TAKING NOTE OF THE DISTINCTION

- Punishment = a matter of \_\_\_\_\_; the guilty person \_\_\_\_\_ the eternal consequences of sin; it is \_\_\_\_\_ and retributive.
- Discipline = a matter of \_\_\_\_\_; its goal is \_\_\_\_\_ development; usually temporary and always \_\_\_\_\_.

#### A LESSON IN HORTICULTURE

ROMANS 11:15-32

- ❶ Jews are \_\_\_\_\_ being disciplined, but it's temporary — Israel is ultimately \_\_\_\_\_ by God.

- ❷ Gentiles now enjoy a place of \_\_\_\_\_, but we are morally undeserving — we must not become \_\_\_\_\_.

#### THE BENEFITS OF GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY

ROMANS 11:33-36

- ❶ God's sovereignty relieves us from \_\_\_\_\_ — we can \_\_\_\_\_ knowing God is in control.
- ❷ God's sovereignty releases us from \_\_\_\_\_ — we don't need to know all the reasons \_\_\_\_\_.
- ❸ God's sovereignty helps us guard against our own \_\_\_\_\_ — the Lord's blessings come because He is good, not because we \_\_\_\_\_ them.

#### LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION:

1. Are there people you think are beyond God's reach — that God has given up on? What could possibly change your mindset?
2. Read Romans 11:1-14. What were the spiritual consequences for those Israelites who rejected Jesus Christ (verses 7-10)? Why are these consequences inevitable for anyone who persistently rejects the gospel?
3. Could someone looking at your life clearly see, and perhaps come to envy, the benefits of the Gospel you enjoy?
4. Read Romans 11:15-32. Why should Paul's illustration of the olive tree prevent Gentiles from feeling superior to unbelieving Israelites (verses 17-24)? Why is it just as foolish for Christians today to feel superior to non-Christians?
5. What would go wrong in your Christian life if you remembered only the kindness or sternness (severity) of God, and not both (verse 22)?
6. It's sometimes claimed that God no longer has a special relationship with ethnic Israel. How would you respond to this claim?
7. Read Romans 11:33-36. How did Paul describe the mind of God? What limits all human explanations of God?