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Valley Church

January 12 & 15, 2023  
Week 32 – Our Faithful God (Romans 11)

### Introduction:

Lamentations 3:22-23 – the basis of the hymn “Great is Thy Faithfulness”

### Five Solid Assurances of God’s Faithfulness

1. Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ testimony (vs. 1)  
*“Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself...”* (vs. 1)  
  
(see 1 Timothy 1:16 – Paul’s conversion a “pattern” for the future. Also Zechariah 12:10-13:1 talks about Israel’s miraculous conversion at Messiah’s return)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Elijah (vs. 2-10)  
*“I have reserved for myself seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal.’ So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace.”* (vs. 4-5)
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the World (vs. 11-15)  
*“...salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious.”* (vs. 11)
4. The Ancient \_\_\_\_\_ (vs. 16-24)  
*“If the...firstfruits is holy...the whole batch is holy...”* (vs. 16a)  
*“...if the root is holy, so are the branches.”* (vs. 16b)  
(see Numbers 15:17-21; Leviticus 23:9-14)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God (vs. 25-36)  
  
*“The deliverer (Christ) will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob (Israel).”* (vs. 26)  
*“And this is my covenant with them when I take away their sins.”* (vs. 27)  
*“...for God’s gifts and his call or irrevocable.”* (vs. 29)  
*“...God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.”* (vs. 32)

**The Big Idea:** We can’t fully appreciate the grace we don’t deserve if we don’t fully appreciate the reality of what we do deserve! The Gospel brings us back to the safety and serenity of living in total dependence upon God’s resources rather than our own...

## QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION

### Personal Life:

1. In the weekend message, we surveyed the faithful character of God in keeping His promises. Why is the issue of God's faithfulness so integral to our faith in Him? How has God's faithfulness been proven in your own life? Feel free to bring God glory by sharing specific examples if you are willing...

### Ponderings:

2. Review the five assurances Paul gave in order to prove God's faithfulness to Israel, and discuss the following thoughts and questions...
  - What did you think about the idea that Paul's conversion was to serve as a "pattern" for the future conversion of the nation of Israel?
  - In your opinion, is present-day political nation of Israel the same thing as the future Israel described in Biblical prophecy? Explain your thoughts respectfully...
  - Through the reference to Elijah, Paul demonstrates that God has always preserved a "remnant." Who is that remnant today? Who is included as "Israel" in the phrase "all Israel will be saved?"
  - Is it possible for a Jew to be saved without placing faith in Messiah?
  - Why were the Gentiles tempted to be arrogant toward the Jews living in Rome who had placed faith in Messiah? Do you think this arrogance is still present among some Gentiles believers today? Discuss...
3. Why is God's relationship to Israel (either historically or prophetically or both) a dynamic example of His amazing grace? What means of instruction or encouragement can we as 21<sup>st</sup> century disciples draw from Israel as our object lesson?
4. Why is it impossible to understand grace (what we don't deserve) without understanding justice (what we do deserve)? Why is it true that the wages of sin is death? Why couldn't God have allowed a different result when sin entered the picture?

### Promptings:

5. We are about to enter into the "discipleship" section of Romans, focusing on following Jesus under His New Covenant of grace. Why do you think Paul has spent so much time on "orthodoxy" (right belief) before finally transitioning to "orthopraxy" (right behavior)?
  - Will you commit to expecting God to speak to you powerfully and personally in the weeks ahead? Will you pray for the courage to be obedient to Him in response to His lavish grace and kindness toward you? Will you trust Him to empower you instead of relying upon your own (self-sufficient) attitudes and resources?