

Romans 11:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.

Analysis

Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy—houtōs kai houtoi nyn ēpeithēsan tō hymeterō eleei hina kai autoi nyn eleēthōsin (οὗτως καὶ οὗτοι νῦν ἡπείθησαν τῷ ὑμετέρῳ ἐλέει ἵνα καὶ αὐτοὶ [νῦν] ἐλεηθῶσιν). The parallelism is chiastic: Gentiles' past disobedience → mercy through Israel's unbelief; Israel's present disobedience → mercy through Gentiles' mercy. The phrase **through your mercy** (tō hymeterō eleei) is striking—Israel's future mercy comes through Gentile mercy.

This likely means: Gentile reception of mercy will provoke Israel to jealousy (vv. 11, 14), leading to their repentance and reception of mercy. The cycle of mercy is mutual and sequential: God used Israel's failure to bless Gentiles; He'll use Gentile blessing to restore Israel. The purpose clause **that they also may obtain mercy** (hina kai autoi eleēthōsin) expresses God's ultimate intent: Israel's salvation. Their present disobedience serves God's long-term redemptive purpose.

Historical Context

Paul envisions Gentile mercy provoking Israel to jealousy (vv. 11, 14). When Jews see Gentiles enjoying covenant blessings (forgiveness, Spirit, adoption), holy envy should arise, leading to faith in Jesus. Gentile faithfulness becomes evangelistic to Israel—a missional dynamic.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the mercy you've received from God become a means of mercy for Israel?
2. What does it mean practically for Gentile Christians to provoke Israel to jealousy through mercy?
3. How does this verse demonstrate God's comprehensive plan to show mercy to all people?

Interlinear Text

οὕτως καὶ οὗτοι νῦν ἡπείθησαν τῷ ὑμετέρῳ ἐλέει τίνα
Even so also these now have G3588 through your mercy that
G3779 G2532 G3778 G3568 G544 G5212 G1656 G2443

καὶ αὗτοὶ ἐλεηθῶσιν·

also they may obtain mercy
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