

# Romans

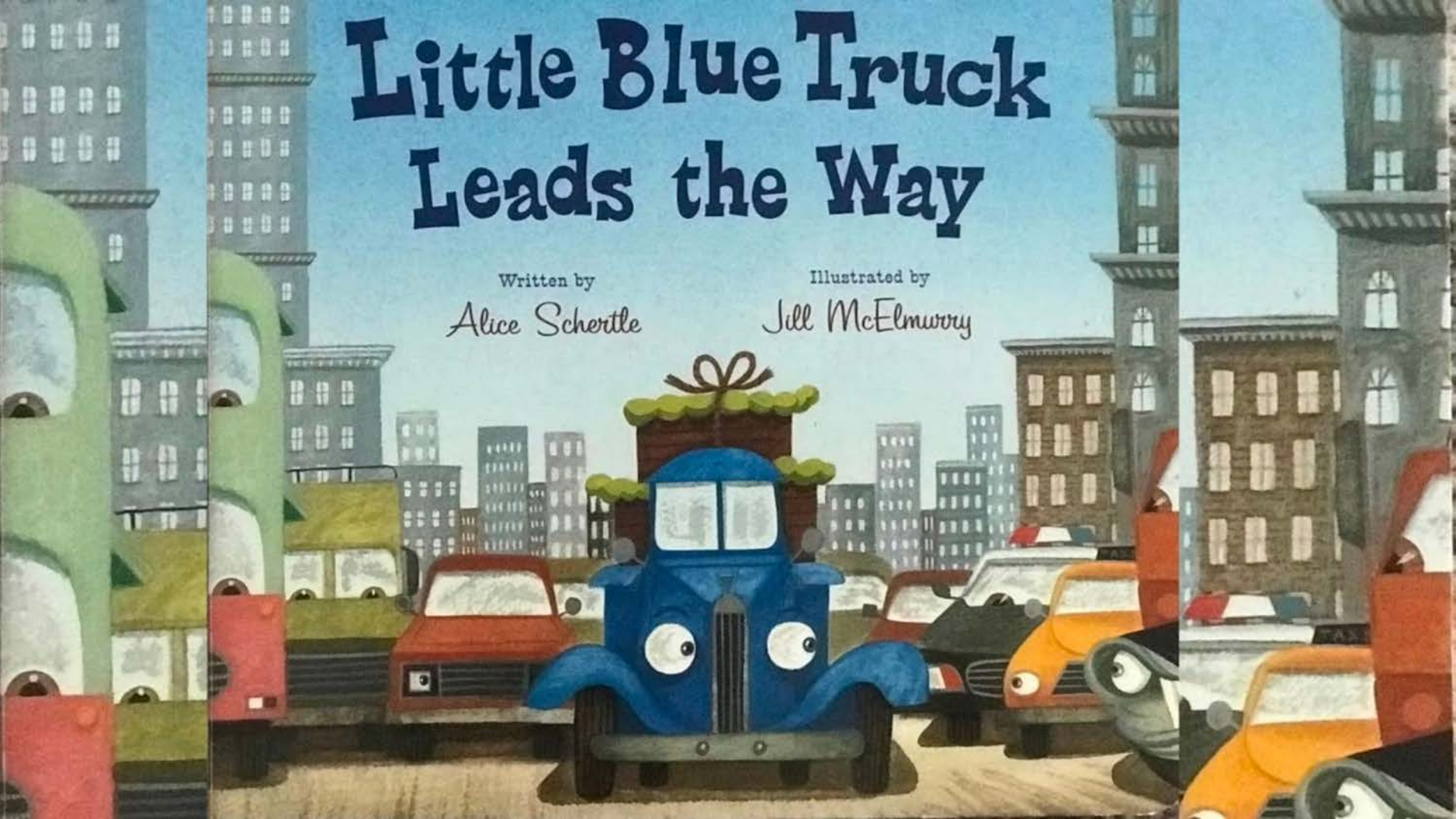


DID GOD'S  
PLAN FAIL?

# Little Blue Truck Leads the Way

Written by  
*Alice Schertle*

Illustrated by  
*Jill McElmurry*



# This Week's Sermon

*"Learning to Throw Left Handed"*

Romans 11:1-6

# Last Week

“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

(Romans 10:17)

# Romans 11:1-6

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.”

## Romans 11:1-6

4 But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." 5 So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

# Today's Message

1. Has God Rejected?
2. Learning Grace
3. Learning to Throw Left Handed

Has God Rejected?



# Romans 11:1-6

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.”

# Romans 11:1-6

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.”

# Elijah & The Remnant

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” 4 But what is God's reply to him? “I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”

# Learning Grace

# The Apostle Paul Learns Grace

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means!  
For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a  
member of the tribe of Benjamin.

## Philippians 3:4b-7

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.



# 1 Timothy 1:12-16

12 I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, 13 though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, 14 and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 15 The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 16 But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life.



# Elijah Learns Grace

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? 3 “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.”



# 1 Kings 19 - Elijah Flees

3 Then he was afraid, and he arose and ran for his life and came to Beersheba, which belongs to Judah, and left his servant there.

4 But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a broom tree. And he asked that he might die, saying, "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my fathers."

# God Sustains Elijah

5 And he lay down and slept under a broom tree. And behold, an angel touched him and said to him, "Arise and eat." 6 And he looked, and behold, there was at his head a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. And he ate and drank and lay down again. 7 And the angel of the Lord came again a second time and touched him and said, "Arise and eat, for the journey is too great for you." 8 And he arose and ate and drank, and went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb, the mount of God.

# God Speaks to Elijah

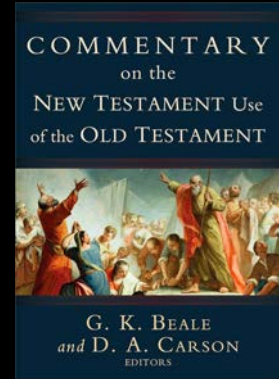
9 There he came to a cave and lodged in it. And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, and he said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

10 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away." 11 And he said, "Go out and stand on the mount before the Lord." And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore the mountains and broke in pieces the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. And after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. 12 And after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire the sound of a low whisper.

# God Speaks to Elijah

13 And when Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. And behold, there came a voice to him and said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" 14 He said, "I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away...18 Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

“Elijah likewise stands in contrast to the exalted Christ, who intercedes for believers (8:34). Elijah’s contention against the nation is not finally valid. He does not perceive the work of the merciful God, who in the midst of judgment has preserved a remnant for himself. Elijah’s implicit imprecatory petition against Israel is thus implicitly rejected. Hope for Israel remains.”



~Excerpt From Commentary on the New Testament Use of the Old Testament







# Elijah vs. Jesus

“I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away”

(Elijah)

“If it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not my will but yours be done”

(Jesus)

# What is grace?

Grace is God's choice to be good to people who do not deserve it. Grace is freely given.

Grace is God's initiating and sustaining work in our salvation from start to finish.

# Learning to Throw Left Handed



“Indeed, decades of research confirm that we are all above average – at least in our own minds. When comparing ourselves versus other people, we tend to rate ourselves more highly on a host of positive measures, including intelligence, ambition, friendliness, and modesty (ha!). This finding is sometimes called the “self-enhancement” effect.

This self-enhancement effect is most profound for moral characteristics. While we generally cast ourselves in a positive light relative to our peers, above all else we believe that we are more just, more trustworthy, more moral than others.

“This self-righteousness can be destructive because it reduces our willingness to cooperate or compromise, creates distance between ourselves and others, and can lead to intolerance or even violence. Feelings of moral superiority may play a role in political discord, social conflict, and even terrorism.

~<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/most-people-consider-themselves-to-be-morally-superior/>



“Forgiveness flounders when I exclude my enemy from the community of humans as I exclude myself from the community of sinners”



~Miroslav Volf



# We Need to Learn Grace

23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,  
24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the  
redemption that is in Christ Jesus

# 100% Grace

6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.



“I forgive you brother, with all my heart!”



~Corrie Ten Boom

# CORDUROY



By Don Freeman



# Gospel Response

*Learn Grace*

*Who in your life needs to experience grace?*