

**I. Introduction and review.**

**A. Is Israel's failure fatal?**

1. Israel's rejection is not total. 11:1-10 God continues to preserve a remnant.
2. Israel's rejection is not final. 11:11-32 11:11 He has a plan for Israel.

**B. God reveals His purposes in the hardening of Israel.**

**II. God's rejection of Israel is not final: He has a plan for their future recovery. v. 11-16**

**A. Has Israel as a nation fallen beyond recovery? v. 11a Mt. 21:42-43**

1. Why might one conclude that God is finished with Israel as a nation? 11:8-10
2. They have stumbled, but they have not irreparably fallen. Isa. 29:17f

**B. God has a three stage plan for Israel's future recovery. v. 11b-12 Rom. 8:28**

1. Israel's loss is the Gentiles' gain. v. 11b
  - a. It was always God's intention to bring salvation to the Gentiles. Gen. 12:3 Isa. 49:4-6 Mt. 21:43
  - b. God used the rejection of the gospel by the Jews to bring salvation to the Gentiles. Acts 13:44-48 18:6 28:28 Lu. 14:16-24 Mt. 21:43 22:1f
2. The Gentiles' gain results in blessing to Israel. Gentile salvation will provoke the Jews to jealousy that they might return to God. v. 11c 10:19 Dt. 32:21
3. The recovery of Israel will result in even greater gain for the Gentiles. v. 12,15

**C. Paul's ministry to the Gentiles is also instrumental in Jewish salvation. v. 13-14**

1. Paul's mission work is not against the interests of Israel.
2. Paul remains zealous for the conversion of his countrymen. v. 14 Acts 18:4 13:14

**D. What should we expect God to do with the Jews in the future? v. 15, 12, 26a**

1. Some claim Paul is still talking about the saving of a remnant of Israel throughout history.
2. It appears Paul expects a future widespread revival among the Jews. v. 12,15,26
3. What is meant by *life from the dead*? v. 15b
  - a. Will Jewish revival be followed by the final resurrection of the last day?
  - b. Or does he speak of the widespread quickening and deepening of spiritual life? 6:13 Eph. 2:1,5 Col. 3:1 Ezek. 37
4. In what sense is the *world* reconciled to God? v. 15,12 John 3:16

**E. Ethnic Israel remains, in a sense, holy to God. v. 16**

1. The entire harvest was sanctified through the offering of the firstfruits. v 16a Num. 15:17-21 Lev. 23:10-11
2. The entire tree is consecrated if the root is holy. v. 16b
3. What do the first piece of dough and the root symbolize?
  - a. Some suggest the remnant. 8:23 I Co. 15:23 16:15 II Th. 2:13
  - b. A better explanation is the patriarchs (and the covenants), which is why God continues to take interest in them. v. 28 9:4 Isa. 51:1-2
4. God still has plans for Israel, because of His promises to their forefathers.
5. This does not mean every Israelite is saved. 9:6f

**F. Application.**

1. Does your Christian life make others jealous to have what God has given you?
2. God uses zealous human effort as a means by which His plan is accomplished.
3. Does Paul imply Christ will not return until a revival takes place among the Jews?

### **III. God's plans for Israel are illustrated by the olive tree. v. 17-24**

- A. This figure of the olive tree confuses many. v. 17 Jer. 11:16 Hosea 14:6**
- 1. Is Paul's illustration contrary to good horticulture? v. 24**
  - 2. Does every detail have a meaning?**
  - 3. The tree symbolizes God's people (both Jew and Gentile) throughout history.**
  - 4. Paul is simply illustrating what he already said about God's plan for Israel. v. 12f**
    - a. With Israel's rejection of the Messiah, most of the natural branches (ethnic Israelites) are broken off.**
    - b. Which makes room for wild branches (Gentile believers) to be grafted in.**
    - c. Later many natural branches will be grafted back into the tree. v. 23-24**
- B. You (Gentiles) should learn from the example of the olive tree. v. 18-24 John 4:22**
- 1. Don't be arrogant, but remember from where you came. v. 18 Eph. 2:12,19**
  - 2. Don't be presumptuous, but remember that you stand only by faith. v. 19-20a**
  - 3. Beware, lest what happened to the natural branches happen to you. v. 20b-22 Pr. 3:7 Phil. 2:12-13 Heb. 4:1 I Pe. 1:17 I Co. 10:11-12**
  - 4. God is able to graft back in the natural branches. v. 23-24**
- C. Application.**
- 1. We Gentiles should value the riches we have received through Israel.**
  - 2. God deals with people according to their faith or disbelief.**
  - 3. God is both kind and severe.**
  - 4. Is Paul saying you can lose your salvation (be cut off)?**
    - a. You must persevere in faith in order to be saved. Mark 13:13 Heb. 3:12-14 5:11 I Jo. 2:19 Col. 1:22-23**
    - b. Those who are truly saved cannot be lost. 8:31-39 John 10:27-29 Phil. 1:6**
    - c. Scripture frequently warns professing Christians against falling away. John 15:5f Hebrews Rev. 2:15-16 3:16**
    - d. These warnings are a means by which God preserves us in faith. II Co. 13:5**
  - 5. Don't be complacent.**

### **IV. Concluding applications.**

- A. What is the relationship between ethnic Israel and the church? Eph. 3:6 I Pet. 2:9**
- 1. God still takes special interest in the Jews for the sake of the patriarchs.**
  - 2. There is only one people of God (tree), consisting of believing Jews and Gentiles.**
    - a. Gentile believers share all God's promises. 4:11-12 8:17 Ga. 3:7,16,29**
    - b. Jews, are one with the Gentiles in the church. Eph. 2:11f**
- B. We should be concerned about the Jews.**
- C. If God can do this for Israel, He can do great things today. Mt. 19:26**

### **Questions for discussion:**

- 1. Why might some think God is finished with Israel? v. 11a**
- 2. What was God's good purpose in hardening the Jews? v. 11b-12**
- 3. What should we expect God to do among the Jews in the future? v. 12,15**
- 4. What do the lump and the root symbolize in verse 16?**
- 5. What does the olive tree symbolize in verse 17?**
- 6. Against what does Paul warn the Gentiles? v. 18-22**
- 7. Is Paul saying individuals can lose their salvation? v. 21b-22**
- 8. What can you do to make Jewish people, and other unbelievers, jealous?**
- 9. Evaluate this statement: *Israel and the Gentiles are two distinct peoples with two distinct sets of blessings and two distinct destinies.***