

# **SRMBC Family Bible Study**

## **Romans: A New Lifestyle**

**June 20, 2018**

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### **Lesson 14: The Future of Israel    Romans 11**

For centuries Israel longed for the coming of the Messiah. But when Jesus came, many Jewish people did not accept him as Messiah and king. This situation has persisted to the point where Christianity is now considered a Gentile religion. What happened to God's promises and plans for Israel? Has God rejected his chosen people?

**Group Discussion:** Do you think Jewish people today are still God's chosen people? Why or why not?

#### **Why They Are:**

- God's Plan of Salvation Came through the Jews.
- God has not forgotten His people – His still has an everlasting.
- God's Promises to Israel are Good and yet to be completed.

#### **Why They Are Not:**

- Unbelief of the Gospel - Everyone is saved by repentance and believing the Gospel.
- Rejection of their Messiah – Jesus Christ.
- At present, God is not working with Israel – but with the Gentiles/The Church.

*According to the message of the gospel, a person is born into the nation or family of God through a spiritual birth (John 3:3,5). Does that mean, then, that physical Jews cannot be saved? Not at all. Any Jew after the flesh can become part of God's family just like any non-Jew can. How? By obeying the gospel.*

### **Read Romans 11:1- 16**

**1. How does Paul know that God has not rejected his people (vv. 1-6)?**

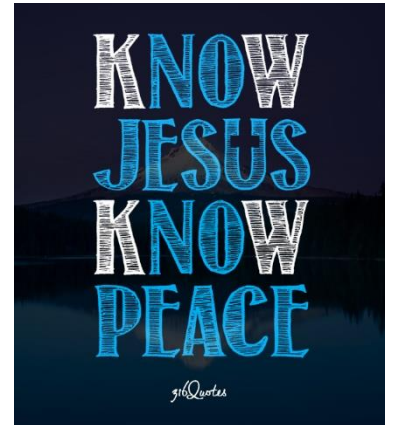
#### **How Paul knows of God's Faithfulness**

- Paul, an Israelite himself, is a disciple/follower of Christ. In other words, God had saved him.
- God's foreknowledge – His future plans have always included the Jews.
- God's Character from an example of Scripture (I Kings 19:10) Elijah thought He was the only true believer – but God always has a remnant.
- Just as in the past, today God has a remnant of true believers among the Jews.
- It is all done by the Grace of God. We can trust in God's grace.

2. What were the spiritual consequences for those Israelites who rejected Jesus Christ (vv. 7-10)? Why are these consequences inevitable for anyone who persistently rejects the gospel?

**Spiritual Consequences for rejecting Jesus (Isa. 29:10, Ps. 69:22 – 23)**

- **Spiritual Blindness** – The way of Salvation cannot be seen (even though it is right before you).
- **Spiritual Hardness** – A mind and heart callous and unreceptive to the Gospel.
- **Spiritual Hardships** – A life full of trouble, stress and difficulty (Know Jesus. Know peace. No Jesus, No Peace).



**Notes:**

When a person consistently rejects the prompting and conviction of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God as the Lord is trying to woo you to Him – The Lord will let you have your way.

A callousness/hardness develops over the heart when we frustrate/reject the Grace of God.

*The story is told of an atheistic barber who was talking to a pastor. The barber asked the pastor, "If there is a loving God, how can He allow poverty, war, and suffering?" Just at that moment a disheveled man crossed the street. The pastor said, "You are a barber and claim to be a good one. How can you allow that man to go unkept and unshaven?"*

*"He never gave me a chance!" the barber replied. To which the pastor said, "Exactly, men are what they are because they reject God!"*

3. **How did Israel's rejection of Christ result in riches for others (vv.11-16)?**

- The Jewish rejection of the gospel caused the apostles to turn to the Gentiles (see Acts 13:46-48; 18:6).
- Their rejection of the gospel brought salvation to the Gentiles.
- According to Paul, the Gentile's Salvation will ultimately make Israel envious and lead many of them to embrace Jesus Christ.

Israel experienced not a permanent fall, but a stumbling. The purpose of their stumble is to allow for the salvation of the Gentiles.

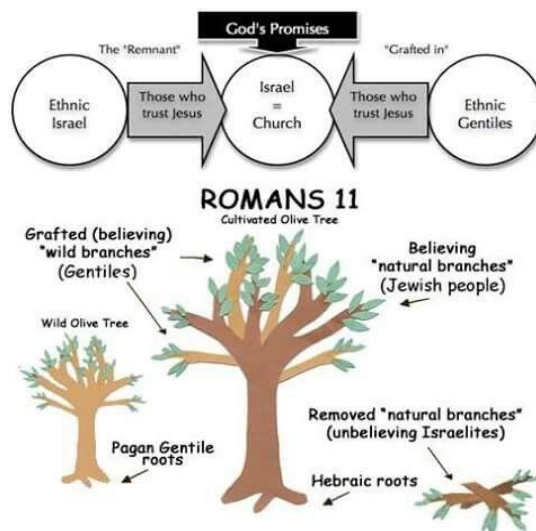
4. **Why is Paul convinced that even greater blessings will come from the Jews' acceptance of Christ (vv. 11-16)?**

- Paul surmises that since Israel's rejection has great benefit to have the world hear and be saved by the Gospel -how much greater the blessing we they accept Jesus.
- The blessing/riches of greater number of believers in God's Family.
- The Joy of differences being dissolved between people groups.
- The great richness of the fulfilment of God's plan and purpose to save the world.

## Read Romans 11:17- 24

### 5. Why should Paul's illustration of the olive tree prevent believing Gentiles from feeling superior to unbelieving Israelites (vv. 17-24)?

- The promises of salvation, grace and blessing in Christ were delivered from God through the Israelites.
- We, the gentiles, by God's grace, are grafted into the promises made to the Israelites (Can I have his plate).
- Israelites are/were God's original branches – but were broken off in unbelief. The same can happen to us (Gentiles) if we fall into unbelief and reject Christ and His Gospel (Locked out of my car)



They have become partakers of Israel's blessings because of Jewish unbelief. They can just as easily lose these blessings (as a group) if they fail to believe in Christ. In other words, their privileged status is due to faith not the fact that they are Gentiles.

## Read Romans 11:25 - 36

### 6. In light of verses 25-32, how would you respond to the claim that God no longer has a special relationship with ethnic Israel?

- God has a plan to save His people – no matter what it looks like right now (Ps. 14:7).
- God's election/foreknowledge along with faithfulness of their ancestors (Moses, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, etc.) allows God to love Israel
- God has not forgotten them but has temporarily set them aside until the fulness of the Gentiles have come to salvation.
- God's calling of Israel as His people has not been or cannot be revoked.
- God's grace and mercy overrules their (and our) disobedience.

### 7. In this chapter Paul has argued that Israel's unbelief is partial (vv. 1-10), purposeful (vv. 11-16) and temporary (vv. 25-32). How does this make him feel about God (vv. 33-36)?

Paul breaks out in exuberant Praise as He thinks about the attributes of God:

- **Worshipful** – Paul is in awe of the of the depth of the riches of both the wisdom and knowledge of God.
- **Humble** - The greatness of the Mind and the Will of God – Higher and Greater the anyone on the earth.
- **Thankful** – Understanding that the riches of the Glory of God all far more than we ever think or imagine.

- **Hopeful** - Because God is so great Paul/we can entrust his future and the future of all mankind to His capable Hands.

**8. How can Paul's description of God in verses 33-36 encourage you to trust and praise him?**

- Since Paul, the Apostle of Christ is praising Lord, He is an example of why we should trust and praise Him.
- As Paul described Him, we can conclude that God is Great and He is greatly to be praised.
- As God has not forgotten His chosen – Israel, I/we can trust God to always love and take care of me.

*Thank God that his plans are greater than anything we can conceive.*

### *Keys for Living*



God has never forgotten His chosen people Israel. Even today while most of Israel is mired in unbelief, God has a remnant of Jewish believers who are committed to following Christ.



While we can rightly point out that Israel was wrong for rejecting Jesus as their Messiah, if we continue to reject Him as Savior and Lord. we too, will suffer the same fate.



Although it may not look like it, God's plans for the Salvation will come to pass. His ways of accomplishing are greater than what our limited minds can conceive.