

Romans 11:25-36 - The Salvation of Israel

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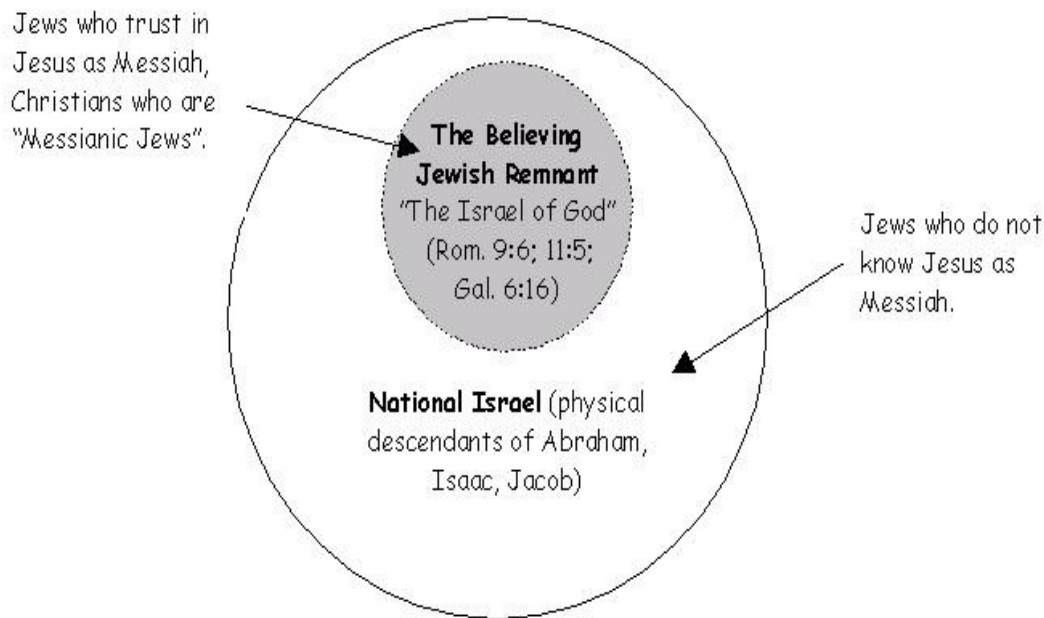
11:25 - Blindness in Part [\[listen\]](#)

- **The Affinity of the Natural Branches**
The conjunction, *for*, couples this verse to the conclusion from the previous verse: *the natural Jewish branches are more likely to be grafted into the olive tree than the wild Gentile branches.*
- **"blindness in part... until"**
The current blindness of Israel in rejecting Messiah Jesus has two components:
 - 1) It is *partial*: some Jews, the believing remnant, the "Israel of God," will always see the truth.
 - 2) It has a limit: when the fullness of Gentiles has come in the blindness will be removed.
- **An Informed Opinion**
Paul warns the Gentiles not to be misled, lest they conclude that Israel's faithless condition will never change. Their understanding of Israel in the plan of God must recognize the *temporal* nature of the current blindness.

11:26 - Israel will be Saved [\[listen\]](#)

- **"all Israel will be saved"**
There are three main interpretive views of the identity represented by the phrase, *all Israel*:
 - 1) The Church.
 - 2) The believing Jews during the present age.
 - 3) The ethnic nation of Israel.Only *one* of these views (#3) is interpretively consistent: *Israel means Israel!*
- **Believing Israel Becomes All Israel**
Scripture paints the harsh reality: 1) the believing remnant will grow in size with time; 2) unbelieving Jews will be cut off from Israel and will not enter the millennial kingdom ([Eze. 20:32-38](#); [Zep. 3:8-13](#); [Zec. 13:7-9](#)).

- **Two Circles Become One**



11:26-27 - A Deliverer From Zion [\[listen\]](#)

- **"as it is written"**
 Paul refers to Old Testament passages which indicate that God will turn ungodliness away from the Jews ([Ps. 14:7](#); [Isa. 59:20-21](#)).
- **A Covenant Dealing with Sin**
 The promise that God would turn away ungodliness from Jacob (Israel) is part of the promised fulfillment of the New Covenant which includes the spiritual restoration of the Jews ([Jer. 31:31; 32:37-41](#)). The New Covenant was initiated by Christ's work of atonement on the cross for the remission of sins ([Mtt. 26:28](#); [Heb. 9:15](#)).
- **Dual Ministry of Christ**
 Isaiah describes the *dual ministry* of Christ in relation to Gentiles and Jews. He is a **light for the Gentiles** who were without the Law of Moses, but also is prophesied to **raise up the tribes of Jacob** ([Isa. 49:5-6](#)). The second aspect is often overlooked today.

11:28-29 - Beloved Enemies [\[listen\]](#)

- **The Fathers**
 The unbelieving Jews are **enemies** because they oppose the gospel entrusted to the believing Gentiles. They are **beloved** on account of the fathers. The believing Gentiles would have nothing to believe in except for the faithfulness of the fathers of the unbelieving Jews. So we believing

Gentiles owe an incredible debt to the forefathers of today's Jews -- both believing *and unbelieving*.

- **Israel is Chosen**
These same unbelieving Jews who are enemies are beloved because of the calling of the nation which began with the election of the fathers: Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Israel is the only *national entity* ever to have been specially chosen by God ([Deu. 14:2](#); [2S. 7:23-24](#); [Isa. 49:13-15](#)).
- **Israel's Special Role Continues**
Israel's gifts and calling were not forfeited at her rejection of Messiah Jesus at His first coming ([Rom. 9:3-4](#); [11:2](#)).

11:30-31 - Disobedience and Mercy [\[listen\]](#)

- **Disobedient Gentiles**
Prior to the cross, In their disobedience, the Gentiles were strangers from the covenants, having no hope and without God ([Eph. 2:11-12](#)). In contrast, Israel was given numerous blessings which other nations were not afforded ([Rom. 9:3-5](#)).
- **Disobedient Jews**
At the cross, Messiah Jesus was rejected by the majority within Israel, and the blessing of the gospel went out to the Gentiles ([Acts 28:25-28](#)). Through Israel's disobedience the Gentiles obtained mercy.
- **Disobedience Followed By Mercy**
For both Gentiles and Jews, the disobedience of the majority is followed by God's mercy in turning them to Himself when they otherwise would not seek Him.

11:32 - All Disobedient [\[listen\]](#)

- **Both Jews and Gentiles Disobedient**
History demonstrates that all of mankind, both Jew and Gentile, has been equally disobedient. There is no room for an attitude of superiority by either.
- **History is Unfinished**
At any given point in history, Jews or Gentiles may exhibit greater obedience to God. At the time of Paul's writing, like today, the Gentiles were more responsive to God. Paul's point is that *it will not always be so*.

11:33-35 - The Wisdom and Knowledge of God [\[listen\]](#)

- **God's Ways Past Finding Out**
Paul refers to [Isaiah 40:13](#) and [Job 41:11](#) to emphasize the inscrutable wonders of God's plan. God does not reveal His plans in entirety nor is He answerable to anybody for it. However, we are responsible for that which *has* been revealed ([Deu. 29:29](#)). This includes understanding that God will redeem the nation of Israel by sovereign means.
- **His Ways Higher**
The rebellion of both Jews and Gentiles through history will demonstrate the marvellous workings and mercy of God. The response of the Gentile believers at Rome -- and our response -- should be

reverent humility and complete obedience to what God has revealed.

11:36 - Of Him, To Him, Through Him [\[listen\]](#)

- **"of Him"**
God is the ultimate First Cause. He is the source of all things. He alone is Creator. All else is creature or creation.
- **"through Him"**
He is the active agent and upholder of all things.
- **"to Him"**
All things exist for His purpose and pleasure. He is the ultimate purpose and goal for which creation exists -- for His glory and pleasure.

Application

1. **Ignorance breeds Arrogance** - Paul did not want the Gentile believers to be ignorant of God's plan to spiritually restore Israel. To remain ignorant would lead them to have too high of a view of their own opinion. A failure to carefully study the entire Bible along with an unwillingness to be grammatically consistent in our interpretation has led some believers to oppose God's stated purpose for Israel. May we not be among them!
2. **All Israel will be Saved** - At a time yet future, Christ will turn away unbelief from Israel. The believing remnant will increase in size and unbelieving Jews will perish without entering the millennial kingdom. At that time, the believing remnant and the nation will be one-and-the same. Those who are cut off are analogous to the faithless generation of Jews who were barred from the Promised Land and perished in the wilderness. The prophesied regeneration of Israel, and judgment of nonbelieving Jews, should motivate the Church to place a high priority on Jewish evangelism. This was Paul's own pattern throughout the Book of Acts.
3. **Both Jews and Gentiles Disobedient** - When history winds to an end, both Jew and Gentile will be shown to be equally disobedient and in need of God's mercy. The mercy we Gentiles obtained in our disobedience of the past will also be extended to the Jews in the future. Let us not be like the faithful son who became jealous when the prodigal son was restored ([Luke 15:30](#)). The restoration of Israel will bring incredible blessings for all God's people.