

God's Hardening is neither Total nor Final
Romans 11:11-25
January 15, 2023

What happens to those who harden themselves to the gospel?

The Hardening of Israel is not Total, and it is not Final.

How many Jewish Christians were there in the early church? Acts 2, 4, 21:20

The Question v 11-12

Has Israel stumbled in order that they might fall?

In the plan of God, there is a future for Israel - the Chosen people.

What was the purpose of the trespass of Israel?

1) *Through it Salvation has come to the Gentiles. (Acts 13:45-46)*

2) *Israel is driven to jealousy through Gentile inclusion.*

How can we provoke others to jealousy?

3) *Their trespass meant riches for the world.*

4) *Their inclusion will mean life from the dead!*

What does 'life from the dead' mean?

There is a future for repentant Israel. Two analogies. (v 13-16)

Dough offered as first-fruits is holy, the whole lump is holy. (Numbers 15:17-21)

If root is holy, so are the branches. (Job 18:16; Jeremiahs 17:8)

A Warning against Pride (v 17-25)

If the natural branches were cut off due to unbelief, so will the wild olive branches, through unbelief.

God's way of salvation leaves no room for pride and arrogance.

Severity of God

To those who have fallen.

Those who refuse mercy will receive justice.

Kindness of God

Toward you *if you continue in his kindness.*

How do you continue in the kindness of God?

The kindness of God is still offered to the natural branches.

Hardening need not be permanent - there is hope.

Pride has no place in the Christian life.

Continue to walk in the kindness of God.