

**ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION**  
**A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL**  
**PART 2**  
**ROMANS 11:16-36**

**Introduction:**

Read *Romans 11:16-32*

Tonight continue with the thought we began last week on...

**A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL.**

Last week, I shared how the **APOSTLE PAUL** made two main points.

- 1. GOD Has Not Completely Rejected The Nation Of ISRAEL.**
- 2. GOD Has Not Permanently Rejected The Nation Of ISRAEL.**

I also shared on the practical implications of these truths. **These two spiritual truths affect our THEOLOGY, our TRUST in GOD'S WORD, and our ATTITUDE toward the JEWISH PEOPLE.**

Tonight, as we look at *verses 16-32*, I believe we can summarize **PAUL'S** message in these verses in to two main points as well. I believe the two main messages that **PAUL** communicates here are:

- 1. GOD Has The Power To Successfully Restore ISRAEL!**
- 2. GOD Has The Plan To Successfully Restore ISRAEL!**

When I say **"RESTORE ISRAEL"**, I am referring to those who are the **PHYSICAL DESCENDANTS** of **ABRAHAM** through the line of **JACOB** a/k/a **ISRAEL** and a/k/a the **JEWES**, being **RESTORED** to the **POSITION** and **CALLING** they have from the **LORD GOD**.

To use an illustration I used last week, they will be placed back into the starting line-up once again. **GOD** has the **POWER** and **HE** has a **PLAN** to see that it takes place.

The **JEWISH** people once had a very special privileged relationship with **GOD**. But because of **UNBELIEF** they lost some of the **STATUS** and **PRIVILEGES**. We **GENTILES** now have a lot of the **STATUS** and **PRIVILEGES** that **ISRAEL** lost. But we must not become **PROUD**, **OVERCONFIDENT**, or **ANTAGONISTIC** toward the **JEWISH** people.

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**PAUL** uses these first few verses we just read to tell the **GENTILES** in the **CHURCH** why they should not **LOOK DOWN ON** or **BE HOSTILE TO** the **JEWISH** people.

We **GENTILES** need to understand that we **DID NOT EARN** or **DESERVE** the status we have. **We were not chosen** because we were **MORE RIGHTEOUS** or **MORE COMPATIBLE** than **ISRAEL**.

In fact, one reason **we were chosen** was to make **ISRAEL JEALOUS!** (*vs. 11*) So we must be careful about our **ATTITUDE** toward the **JEWES** because we too could lose our special status. And, also, we must be careful about our **ATTITUDE** toward the **JEWES** because **GOD'S** special relationship with **ISRAEL** will be **RESTORED!**

- 1. GOD Has The Power To Successfully Restore ISRAEL! (11:16)**  
Here **PAUL** uses imagery that is unfamiliar to many people today, so let me briefly explain.

In Old Testament times, the **ISRAELITES** would take the first of the harvested grain and make dough with it. From the batch of dough they would take a small portion and offer it up to God as a symbolic gesture that all the wheat had come from him and that all the wheat was to be used for **HIS** purposes, the whole dough was considered holy.

In a similar sense, we give a **TITHE** (10 percent of our income) to the **CHURCH**, and by doing so we acknowledge that it all belongs to **GOD**. **"Holy"** in this context does not refer to moral uprightness but to **BEING SET APART AS SPECIAL TO GOD!**

**PAUL'S** point is that because the first **JEWISH** people, **THE PATRIARCHS**, were **HOLY** and **SET APART TO GOD AS SPECIAL**, so all the **JEWISH PEOPLE** are **HOLY** and **SET APART TO GOD for HIS SPECIAL PURPOSES!**

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In other words, **GOD IS NOT** through with the **JEW! GOD HAS NOT BROKEN HIS COVENANT** and rejected the **JEWISH PEOPLE** altogether, **HE** has only broken off some branches that were not producing fruit.

**11:17-18** Here **GOD'S SPECIAL PEOPLE**, those who have received that **SPECIAL STATUS** and **PRIVILEGES** are compared corporately to an olive tree while the individuals are compared to the separate branches of the olive tree.

In **NEW TESTAMENT** times a husbandman who had an olive tree that was not producing fruit would break off some of the unproductive branches and graft in new ones to stimulate productiveness.

That is what has happened figuratively speaking with the **JEWISH** and **GENTILE** people. The individual **JEWISH** people who rejected **CHRIST** were broken off, i.e. they lost their special **SPIRITUAL POSITION** and **PRIVILEGES**, which is just what **JESUS** said would happen in *Matthew 21:42-43*.

The **GENTILE BELIEVERS** are compared to a *"wild olive tree."* They have not replaced **ISRAEL**, but instead have been **GRAFTED INTO** the tree to be beneficiaries of her **SPIRITUAL HERITAGE** and **COVENANT**. **PAUL** calls it the *"root and fatness"* in *Vs. 17*.

We **GENTILES** must remember our **POSITION** is NOT one of superiority over the **JEWS** but rather that the root (Jewish founders) supports us. Rather than be proud and boastful of our status, we need to recognize the special place the **JEWS** still have in **GOD'S** plan.

**PAUL** is using these spiritual truths to warn against the **SCORN**, **PREJUDICE**, and **ANTI-SEMITIC ATTITUDES** that have, nevertheless existed in both the **CHURCH** and **GENTILE** world.

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Such **ATTITUDES** are **NOT CONSISTENT** with the **TRUTH** and the **COMMANDS OF SCRIPTURE!**

**11:19-22** Rather than being arrogant, the **GENTILES** in the **CHURCH** should be humble because we recognize that we are not receiving our **SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES** because we are better than the **JEWS** but rather because we *"stand by faith."*

The **GENTILES** in the **CHURCH** could lose the **PRIVILEGED POSITION** if we have the same **SPIRITUAL PRIDE** and **UNBELIEF** that the nation of **ISRAEL** did.

There is no reason to think that **GOD** will treat the **GENTILES** any differently than he did the **UNBELIEVING JEWS**. *"If God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee."*

In fact, in other places **PAUL** writes about how the **GENTILE CHURCH** will **apostatize** or *"depart from the faith."* (*1 Timothy 4, 2 Timothy 3, and 2 Thessalonians 2*)

We should look at the history of **ISRAEL** and learn a lesson. **GOD** was stern with those who in **SPIRITUAL PRIDE** and **UNBELIEF REJECTED GRACE** but **HE** has been very kind to those that **RECEIVED HIS GRACE** by **FAITH** and **HE WILL CONTINUE** to be so, *"If thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off."*

Rather than be **PRIDEFUL**, which was the error of the **ISRAELITES**, we need to be **HUMBLE** and **RECOGNIZE** that it is only by **GRACE** that we have anything good from **GOD**.

Having dealt with this important side issue, **PAUL** now gets to the first of the two main points I shared in the beginning of this message.

## ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION

### A BIBLICAL UNDERSTANDING OF GOD'S PLAN FOR ISRAEL

#### PART 2

#### ROMANS 11:16-36

#### 1. **GOD Has The POWER To Successfully RESTORE ISRAEL!** (*Romans 11:23-24*)

If you have a computer and have the Windows operating system, you probably have received a message that says something like this: *"This program has committed a fatal error and will be shut down."* That message means there is no hope of recovery. The program or the computer must start over.

Some people were thinking that was what had happened with the **JEWS**. They believed that **ISRAEL** had committed a **FATAL ERROR** in rejecting **JESUS** as a **NATION** and were therefore **BEYOND RECOVERY** or **RESTORATION** as a **NATION**

**PAUL** corrects this mistaken belief by pointing out that **GOD** has the **POWER** to **RESTORE ISRAEL**.

**PAUL** continues to use the analogy of an olive tree to do this. If **GOD** can graft a *"wild olive tree"* (**GENTILES**) into a cultivated olive tree, which was normally done successfully, then certainly **GOD** can graft *"natural branches"* (**ISRAEL**) back into the olive tree even more readily.

The natural branches, the **JEWISH** people, will more quickly and more effectively take to their position as **GOD'S CHOSEN** and **CALLED PEOPLE** than the **GENTILES** did.

**Again, GOD has the POWER to successfully RESTORE ISRAEL!** On the surface, the situation for **ISRAEL'S RESTORATION** does not look very good right now. The vast majority of **JEWS** have no interest in **JESUS** and are often hostile to the spreading of the **GOSPEL** message to **JEWS**. (*e.g. There was a theme park in Orlando known as the "Holy Land Experience" that came under attack by JEWISH organizations for sharing the GOSPEL OF JESUS with JEWS.*)

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Such evangelism is often considered **anti-Semitic** by many **JEWS**.

Presently there doesn't look like there's much of a chance of a great spiritual awakening in **ISRAEL**, but don't let that affect your thinking because. . .

**GOD has the POWER to successfully RESTORE ISRAEL and**

#### 2. **GOD Has PLANS To Successfully RESTORE ISRAEL.** **PAUL** discusses this plan in the next few verses along with reasons we can be sure of its success.

**11:25-28** Here **PAUL** reveals a spiritual *"mystery."* A *mystery* in the New Testament refers to *a spiritual truth that was previously unknown.*

In this case the *mystery* that people did not understand was that **GOD** had a **PLAN** to **RESTORE ISRAEL** after the **GENTILES** had come into the kingdom. The mystery that many in the **CHURCH** were ignorant of was that **GOD** was not through with **ISRAEL!**

The **JEWS** have been *"blinded in part. . .until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."* In other words, as soon as **GOD** is through dealing with the **GENTILES**, **HE** will take away the **BLINDNESS** and the **HARDNESS** of the **JEWISH PEOPLE'S HEARTS** and as a result *"all Israel will be saved"*

How will **ISRAEL** be **SAVED**? They will not be **SAVED** any differently than people are **SAVED** today. The sentences in *verse 26* are **OLD TESTAMENT** references to the ministry of **JESUS CHRIST**, which means that the **JEWISH PEOPLE** will be **SAVED** by entering the **NEW COVENANT** of **JESUS CHRIST**. In other words, they will be saved by grace through faith in the **MESSIAH JESUS**, just as **GENTILES** are today.

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**GOD Has PLANS To Successfully RESTORE ISRAEL!**

Because this is true, we need to recognize as *verse 28* says the **JEWISH** people are enemies in one respect because they oppose the **GOSPEL**, but at the same time they are "*beloved for the fathers'* (the Patriarchs) *sakes.* "

In other words, they are treated as loved ones and not enemies because of **GOD'S COVENANT PROMISES WITH ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB.**

How can we be sure of **ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION?** **PAUL** answers that question in the next few verses.

**11:29-32** We can be sure of **ISRAEL'S FUTURE RESTORATION** because it does not depend on their work, but on **GOD'S FAITHFULNESS** and **MERCY**. First of all, **GOD** has given **ISRAEL** a **SPECIAL CALLING** and **SPECIAL PROMISES** and **HE IS NOT UNFAITHFUL TO HIS WORD!**

As *verse 29* says, "*God's gifts and calling of God are without repentance.*"

Yes the **JEWISH PEOPLE** are currently very rebellious and disobedient, but we should not let **ISRAEL'S** current disobedience convince us that they cannot be **RESTORED**. As *verses 30, 31* state, we too were at one time disobedient, but **GOD SHOWED US MERCY** and brought us into a special relationship with **HIM**, so we can expect **HIM** to do same with **ISRAEL**, in **HIS MERCY!**

*Verse 32* does not support universal salvation; it only states that **GOD** has allowed all men (**JEWS and GENTILES**) to be disobedient so that each will recognize the need for **MERCY** that **GOD** is willing to have on them all, i.e. both **JEWS** and **GENTILES**. Both groups of people are treated the same.

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So, we've seen four things about **GOD'S PLAN** for **ISRAEL!**

1. **GOD has not completely rejected the people of ISRAEL!**
2. **GOD has not permanently rejected the people of ISRAEL!**
3. **GOD has the power to successfully restore ISRAEL!**
4. **GOD has plans to successfully restore ISRAEL!**

**Conclusion:**

**11:33-36**

**PAUL** concludes this section of the **BOOK OF ROMANS** by giving glory to **GOD**. He does this because **GOD** in **HIS WISDOM** has brought about the **SALVATION** of both **JEWS** and **GENTILES** in a way that no man could ever have understood, expected, or earned.

Everything begins with **GOD**, takes place by **HIS PLANS**, and for **HIS PURPOSES**, therefore "*To HIM be the glory forever! Amen.*"