



Romans 11:16-32

ISRAEL'S FUTURE: RESTORATION

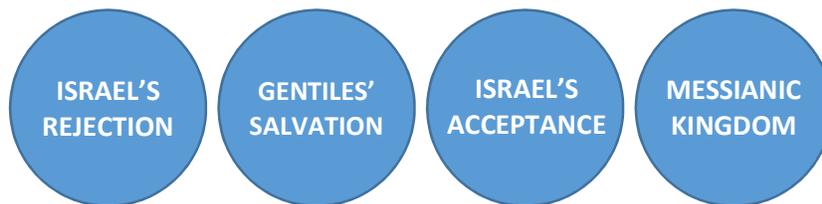
If the statistics are right, the Jews constitute but one quarter of one percent of the human race. It suggests a nebulous puff of star dust lost in the blaze of the Milky Way. Properly, the Jew ought hardly to be heard of, but he is heard of, has always been heard of. He is as prominent on the planet as any other people, and his importance is extravagantly out of proportion to the smallness of his bulk. His contributions to the world's list of great names in literature, science, art, music, finance, medicine and abstruse learning are also very out of proportion to the weakness of his numbers... The Egyptians, the Babylonians and the Persians rose, filled the planet with sound and splendor, then faded to dream-stuff and passed away; the Greeks and Romans followed and made a vast noise, and they were gone; other people have sprung up and held their torch high for a time but it burned out, and they sit in twilight now, and have vanished. The Jew saw them all, survived them all, and is now what he always was, exhibiting no decadence, no infirmities, of age, no weakening of his parts, no slowing of his energies.... All things are mortal but the Jews; all other forces pass, but he remains. What is the secret of his immortality? —Mark Twain, "Concerning the Jews," Harper's, 1899

In Romans 9-11, Paul addresses the question that is lingering in the back of the minds of the Jewish believers in Rome:

"Have the promises of God to Israel failed?" (9:6a)

Paul's answer: _____!
God's sovereign plan was different than what the Jews expected and the Jews' stubbornness contributed to their fall, but God's promises to the nation of Israel will be fulfilled.

GOD'S GREAT _____ (11:11-15)



For if their rejection is the reconciliation of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? (11:15)

GOD'S GREAT _____ (11:16-24)

- The firstfruits and the root represent the unconditional promise of God to Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 15:1-21; 17:1-8; 22:15-18).

A future restoration awaits this people, the Jews, and it will be to the world a glorious demonstration of the truth of prophecy.
—Samuel Wakefield (1869)

The only way that prophecy can be fulfilled is if Israel returns to their homeland. If the Bible is true, Israel must become a nation again. —H. A. Ironside (1919)

Frederick the Great [1712-86] once asked his physician, "Can you name me a single proof of the existence of God?" The physician replied, "Your majesty, the Jews."

Since the firstfruit is set apart to the Lord first, it sanctifies the whole harvest [Num. 15:20-21]. The firstfruits and the root represent the patriarchs of Israel... and the lump and the branches represent the people of Israel.
—John A. Witmer

The olive tree was the most widely cultivated fruit tree in the Mediterranean area.
—James D. G. Dunn



God's covenant with Abraham included receiving God's favor and blessings, being a great nation, having a great name, and being a blessing to the world.

God promised all these blessings through a Seed who would come from Abraham and who would reign over all the earth from the land of Israel, in Jerusalem.

The olive tree is a symbol of the nation of Israel (cf. Jer. 11:16; Hos. 14:6).

- Some natural branches were _____ (cf. Matt. 21:43).
- Many wild olive branches were _____ (cf. Gal. 3:8-9).
 - Gentiles, do not boast or belittle the Jews.
 - Instead, consider the discipline of God. Paul is not referring to loss of salvation. If the olive tree is the place of God's favor and blessings, then it is removal from these blessings (cf. Rev. 2:4-5).
- The natural branches, through faith, will be grafted again by God.

GOD'S GREAT _____ (11:25-32)

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that hardening in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins." (Romans 11:25-27)

- The _____ of the Gentiles will come in (cf. Luke 21:24).
- The _____ of the Jews will cease.
- The Messiah will come out of Zion (cf. Is. 59:20-21; 27:1-13).
- All Israel will be saved (cf. Zech. 12:10; Ezek. 20:33-38).
- The Messiah will reign on earth (cf. Is. 11; Rev. 19-20).

God is faithful to all of His promises!
God is merciful to all of His creation!

*The **olive tree** is the place of privilege that was first occupied by the natural branches, the Jews. The **wild branches** are Gentiles who, because of the unbelief of Israel, now occupy the place of privilege. The **root of the tree** is the Abrahamic covenant that promised blessing to both Jew and Gentile through Christ.*

—Charles C. Ryrie

Olive trees live an average of 300-600 years. The oldest one today (Al Badawi in Bethlehem) is estimated to be 4000-5000 years old. Olive trees are resistant to decay, burn purely, and produce olive oil which is known for its medicinal qualities.

It is customary to reinvigorate an olive tree which is ceasing to bear fruit by grafting it with a shoot of the wild-olive.

—Sir William Ramsay

*"The olive tree represents the place of favor or privilege."
...So "cut off" means losing the position of favor, not losing salvation.* —Charles Swindoll

Anti-semitism is "the world's oldest hatred." FBI stats indicate Jews are the most victimized group, per capita, in America.

God has determined the number of Gentiles to be saved. Once that number is reached, Israel's hardening comes to an end.

—Douglas J. Moo

The rebels among the Jewish people will be purged out by this judgment. Only then will the whole new nation, a regenerate nation, be allowed to enter the Promised Land under King Messiah. —Arnold Fruchtenbaum