

JESUS and HIS APOSTLES ON ESCHATOLOGY (From A.D. 26 to A.D. 100)

1. The teaching of Jesus: The **Olivet** Discourse (Matt. 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21).
2. The teaching of **LUKE** (see Acts 1:6 and 3:11-26).
3. The teaching of **PAUL** (Romans 9-11).
Israel's Election (9:1-29); *Israel's Unbelief* (9:30-10:21); *Israel's Future* (11:1-36).

A. The **PROMISE** of God to Israel (11:1-6)

- 1) Paul's Question (vss. 1a, 11a)
"Did God reject (cast aside; discard) His people?" & "Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery?"
- 2) Paul's Answer (vss. 1a, 11a)
"By no means!" (1a) and "Not at all!" (11a). In other words, that is **IMPOSSIBLE**.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION: This truth certainly has significance for Israel & our understanding of the future. But it also has very practical significance to every believer in Christ. If God does not lit. keep His word to His chosen nation, how can we know He will keep His word to us? If God ever takes back even one tiny part of His covenant with Israel, we are all in deep trouble, in more ways than we can count. God cannot keep only some of His promises. God cannot be partially reliable. If God changes His mind about Israel's homeland, maybe He will change His mind about our heaven! Paul's answer is powerful: "By no means!" There is no way! The future of Israel is rooted in the honesty of God.

- 3) The Evidence (vss. 1b-4). Two evidences that Israel is not a "castaway" nation:
(A) Paul's personal testimony (1b-2a); and (B) Remnant God had in Elijah's day (2b-4).
- 4) The Summary (vss. 5, 6). Israel has a long history of being disobedient & obstinate, but God's **UNCONDITIONAL** promise was based on His **GRACE**, not Israel's **WORKS**. And His promise cannot be annulled (compare vss. 28, 29).

B. The Failure of Israel and Its Results (11:7-24)

- 1) Consequences for Israel (11:7-10).
 - a) The _____. The condition of Israel's heart as a nation: _____.
The Gk. word translated **hardened** gives us our English medical word, **porosis** as in **osteoporosis**.
 - b) The _____: "a spirit of stupor ... eyes so that ... ears so that ..."
The consequences of Israel's disobedience are grave. We might think that the story of Israel ended. But there is still hope, and that hope rests in the gracious promise of God.
- 2) God's _____ for Israel (11:11-15)
The fall of Israel *is not final*; the present hardening of Israel is **temporary** (vs. 25). Until then, Paul explains what God intends to do during this temporary setting aside of Israel. He's accomp. 2 purposes:
 - a) _____ is being proclaimed to Gentile nations *by means of* the church.
 - b) _____ is being provoked in the Israelite nation *because of* the church.
How might the present-day Christian's unanticipated possession of those new covenant blessings serve to bring a generation of Israel to faith? Suggestion: "The Interregnum: A Patient Pedagogy" in Forsaking Israel: How It Happened and Why It Matters (2020). Pages 248-254.

3) The family tree (11:16-24)

- a) The first fruits, or the first part of the dough offered/presented, and the root of the tree was _____.
- b) The whole batch from which the first part of dough came and the olive tree, which came fr. the root, represent the _____ of God through Abraham.
- c) The cultivated branches represent _____ *in general*.
- d) The grafted wild olive branches represent _____ *in general*.

How does this metaphor relate to Israel's future? It teaches that the Jewish nation was cut off the tree, but ultimately will be grafted back into it.

- Some Israelites have been cut off the tree because of unbelief (vss. 17, 20).
- Gentiles have been grafted into a position of blessing (vs. 17).
- Israel will be grafted back in later (vs. 23).

C. The future of the Gentiles and the nation of Israel (11:25-32)

1) God's plan for the _____ (vs. 25)

The focus of God's plan is an ongoing gathering, as a mystery is played out in world history. The mystery that Paul goes on to explain (25b) is the mystery of the temporary setting aside of the nation of Israel. God's plan for Gentiles centers on the ongoing ingathering of believers until the "full number of the Gentiles" is accomplished. The "hardening" of Israel will last "until the full number of the Gentiles has come in." In other words, when the bride of Christ is completed, the principal focus on Gentiles ends, and the focus returns to the nation of Israel. The end of the Gentile ingathering is marked by the trumpet call from the bridegroom & a shout that He is on His way. The church is taken up to the Father's house, and the judgment of God on planet earth, which results in Israel's redemption, begins. And the salvation of Israel — when the remnant that survives the tribulation sees Christ coming in the clouds — will inaugurate the literal thousand-year kingdom.

2) God's plan for _____ (vss. 25-29)

The hardening of Israel's heart in the current dispensation is **partial, not total**. Furthermore, this hardening is **only temporary, not eternal/permanent**. After God redeems Gentiles fr. every nation, tongue and tribe, Israel will have the blinders removed, and the hardening of their hearts will be replaced with faith when they see the Son, the One they pierced, coming in the clouds at the end of the Tribulation. And Israel as a nation will be saved. The OT prophets proclaimed that a separation between believers and unbelievers in Israel would take place in the Tribulation (Ezek. 33-34, 37-38). The prophet Zechariah even explained the percentages of believing and unbelieving Jews by the end of the Tribulation (Zech. 13:8-9).

3) God's plan for the _____ at large (vss. 30-32)

Paul points out a wonderful paradox in God's plan of salvation for the world. God providentially uses the Gentiles to make the Jews jealous & come to Christ (Rom. 11:14). On the other hand, God will use redeemed Israel to be the conduit of salvation to the Gentile nations. Through the O.T. prophet, Ezekiel, the LORD asserts, "I will vindicate the holiness of my great name ... through you" (Ezek. 36:23).

D. Doxology (11:33-36)

- The mind of God: His unsearchable judgments
- The will of God: His unfathomable ways
- The power of God: His sovereign control