

GOD HAS NOT REJECTED ISRAEL (PT 2)

Romans 11:11-24

Introduction: Will God Cut Off His People Israel Altogether?

I. Israel's Rejection of Christ Fits Into God's Larger Plan (v.11-15)

- A. Israel's Hardness Led to Salvation for the Gentiles (v.11a)
 - o Because Israel won't listen, the Gospel is instead preached to the Gentiles. Where do we see this in Acts?
 - o Thus, paradoxically, God used Israel's rejection of Jesus to accomplish his plan for the nations. Where in the OT did God promise to bless the nations?
- B. Salvation of the Gentiles will, in Turn, Provoke Israel to Jealousy (v.11b, 14)
 - o Paul's mission to the Gentiles is not because he's given up on Israel. On the contrary, it will help save his fellow Jews!
 - Paul mentions this fact lest the Gentiles become proud and began to believe that they are the next best thing.
 - o What does Paul mean that Israel will become "jealous"?
 - Ethnic Jews had considered themselves God's favorites. In their minds it was automatic by birth.
 - But once they realized salvation is also for the Gentiles this would have challenged their spiritual security. This would have provoked them to pursue God actively, and this would have led some to find salvation in Christ
- C. As a Result, there will be "full inclusion" (v.12) and "acceptance" (v.15) for Israel
 - o This doesn't mean all ethnic Jews will be saved. But this will be true for "some of them" (v.14)

****Key Point #1:** Jews and Gentiles are connected. What happens with Israel blesses the Gentiles and what happens with the Gentiles, in turn, blesses Israel!

****Key Point #2:** God often uses what looks like "failure" to achieve his purposes

II. Paul Further Explains the Jew-Gentile Relationship with Olive Tree Illustration (v.16-24)



A. The Olive Tree is the People of Israel

- o OT passages often used the Olive tree as an imagery of God's nation Israel (e.g., Jer 11:16-17). Thus, God is the gardener and Israel is the Olive Tree

B. Unbelieving Jews are "Broken off because of their unbelief" (v.20)

- o Shows that being part of God's people *outwardly* is not enough. A person must have faith in Jesus to *really* be a part of the people of God

****Key Point:** Paul is making it clear that the true Israelites (as opposed to just outward Israel) are those who believe in Jesus

C. Gentiles are "grafted in" to the Olive Tree of Israel

- o Gentiles don't naturally belong to the Olive tree: they are a "wild olive shoot" (v.17) and are grafted "contrary to nature" (v.24)
- o Because after these shoots grafted onto the main tree, they "share in the nourishing root of the olive tree" (v.17)

D. Key Implications:

- o As a follower of Jesus, you are now part of the true Israel!
 - Elsewhere Paul says, "If you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise" (Gal 3:29).
 - This means your heritage and identity is bound up in what God did with Israel. You are a Jew (not ethnically, but still really).
- o As one grafted in, "do not be arrogant toward the branches" (v.18)
 - There is no room for boasting, but instead an awareness of "God's kindness to you" (v.22)
- o The Church is the True Israel
 - Notice there are not two trees, one for the church and one for Israel. There is only one people of God, Jew and Gentile together.



Discussion Groups

1. Where in your life right now do you think things are “failing”? How does today’s study remind you that God is still at work in the midst of this?

2. How does Paul’s Olive Tree illustration make you view the OT stories differently? How does it change your interest in the OT as opposed to the NT?

3. How does Paul’s Olive Tree illustration increase your thankfulness and awareness of God’s grace?

