

[Romans 11:11 – 25]

~ According to Scripture, the Jews are God's chosen people; so, it's difficult to understand why so few of them accept Christ as the Messiah. Why does it seem as if God has rejected them today? This leg of our Spiritual Safari answers those two questions in this section of Scripture. We began our consideration of chapter eleven in our previous report; and we continue with God's *FUTURE* purpose and plan for Israel in this report. God has always had a remnant of believers; and there is a remnant of Israel who is finding salvation today; but the numbers remain an extreme minority.

The nation Israel rejects the Lord Jesus Christ in government, society-at-large and most Jews personally simply reject Christ as the Messiah. They reject the righteousness of God offered them by faith. So, God has rejected them as a nation. I know they have land today and a seat at the United Nations, but their return to the land is not according to Biblical prophecy, as we have well-established. God promised Israel primacy in the Old Testament. He said they would be the head and not the tail! That's *not* their condition today. All of the promises from the Old Testament will have a literal fulfillment when the nation Israel has returned to that land in fulfillment of prophecy; and even the Old Testament prophets were looking forward to the age of grace....

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

~ This is as engaging as verse one, to be sure; at least, it is to me. Paul tells them the rejection is but partial and temporary! Most people think Israel could never rise again – but God says they will. What we see in the current state of Israel is that God, through His providence, has opened the gate of salvation wide to the Gentiles. The Jew is going to see the reality of the blessing of God in the salvation of Gentiles; something Jews thought could only happen to them! This should move the Jew to emulation today; not

jealousy. Unfortunately, the average Jew in Israel seems puzzled why the world is so interested in Jewish things....

12 Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

~ Today, Israel has national recognition; but not God's blessing. When they return to the land according to the fulfillment of prophecy, they won't have any problem with the Arab any longer. God says Israel will dwell in peace and safety, and none shall make them afraid; when they are back in the land according to the fulfillment of prophecy. They're scared to death of everything that moves right now as I type this report. Well, the day is coming when they will be received as they turn back to the True and Living God. When that day arrives, the grace of God to the Gentiles will be multiplied even greater. James reveals this in Acts chapter fifteen. God is calling out a people to His Name. After this age, He will return; and I think that will be the time of the greatest revival ever. I know that sounds strange, but I believe the greatest time of turning to Christ will be *AFTER* the church has been removed from the earth. There will be a huge number who turn to God in the Great Tribulation and millennium, also. Many nations will go through to the millennium – and they aren't going to like it at all – so they're going to turn to God....

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them.

~ Of course, Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles; but he still desired to see his own people turn to Christ. Paul told the Corinthians, "... unto the Jews, I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under law." His love for Israel and Jews were the only reasons Paul went to Jerusalem. Some, not many, but a few turned to Christ. In all of this, God was fulfilling Paul's ministry and accomplishing His Own purpose in this age with both Jew and Gentile. It is very rewarding to be able to rest knowing that we are doing

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what God called us to do, friends. There is a very deep satisfaction knowing all things are in the Lord's hands. Paul definitely wanted to win his own brethren; and that is very, very important to see....

15 For if the casting away of Israel be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

~ As far as man is concerned, this world is going to hell in a hand-basket as fast as it can possibly get there. The natural man, especially the rich man, is very pessimistic about the future. I'll agree: it doesn't look promising for the world right now; because it isn't. For the Christian, our best days are ahead of us. Man has the world in a mess; but God is still on the throne, friends....

16 For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.

~ The "lump" refers to a portion of dough bread is made from. This goes back to Numbers, where God says, "of the firstfruits of your dough ye shall give unto the Lord a heave offering in your generations...." Part of the dough was offered to God as a sample to *prove* it was ALL acceptable. The "firstfruits" evidently refers to the origin of the nation Israel; Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The word "holy" has no reference to a moral quality, but merely to the fact that they were set aside for God....

17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

18 Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

~ The olive tree is the nation Israel, and the wild olive is the church. A genuine Christian could never be an anti-Semite because we have benefited so greatly from Israel and their history. The world owes too much to Israel to hate them – but hate them they do! Without Israel, you and I would never know God or His Son; and we wouldn't have a Bible — or a church.

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Maybe that's why the world does hate them? Everything you and I have is rooted in the fact that God made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; the founders of the nation which Christ came from....

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

~ The more I study the church at Laodicea, the more I am convinced they will go into the Great Tribulation period without a single genuinely converted church member amongst them. Dr. George Gill said, "... *some churches will meet on Sunday morning after the rapture; and they won't be missing a single member!*" To Philadelphia, God said He would keep them from the hour of trial that is coming upon the earth. That means the Great Tribulation period; and the church at Philadelphia has an open door before it. It is truly getting out the Word of God today.

That's the church our Spiritual Safari belongs to. We are part of an invisible body of believers who believe the Word of God should be taught properly, correctly and completely to the entire world. I hope *YOU* belong to my church! One day we're going to be called up to meet Jesus in the air. You'll want to have things all straightened out with Him when that day arrives. Of course, it will be *BEFORE* the Great Tribulation period begins, according to Scripture. The churchy religious liberalism today that is premised on jaded philosophies and ritualistic gyrations that are impossible to maintain do *NOT* belong to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Period. Full stop. I know that's not popular, but it just happens to be true....

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

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23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this report with Israel bringing a tremendous blessing to the entire world. Israel is going to turn to the True and Living God — the Lord Jesus Christ — someday. When Israel realizes Jesus received the nail wounds in His hands in the house of His friends, they'll weep and wail, my beloved — but *not* at that dreadful Wailing Wall. The Great Day of Atonement will see them turning to God completely. God has promised to save them by His wonderful and infinite mercy, and grace at that time. Behold the goodness and severity of God on them which fell severity; but towards thee goodness if thou continue in His goodness. Otherwise, thou shalt be cut off!

I realize this report makes us all uncomfortable. Paul calls on the Gentiles to consider two examples. Rejected Israel reveals the severity of God; but to the Gentiles that have turned to Christ is revealed the benevolent goodness and mercy. Those two sides of God certainly need to be revealed today, my friends - Judgment by God against the rejection of Christ and against sin; and the grace of God to those who will trust Christ. We don't hear very much today about those who reject Christ and remain in their sins; but we do hear about the grace and mercy of God! To understand the greatness of His grace, we must comprehend both aspects of this truth! We *MUST* be clear, because of God's holiness, sin must be judged. These marvelous and mysterious truths in Romans need to be well-examined and thoroughly considered. This is where the water of the Word of God gets so muddied up in the contemporary church. It is so polluted by modern theology that people cannot see through it any longer ~

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