

XI

Israel's Future

ROMANS 11:25–33

Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.²⁶ And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written,

“The Deliverer will come from Zion,
he will banish ungodliness from Jacob”;
²⁷ “and this will be my covenant with them
when I take away their sins.”

²⁸ As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.³⁰ For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,³¹ so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.³² For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

READ | ROMANS 11:25–32

THINK ABOUT

Romans 11 is one of the most important chapters in the Bible relating to the nation of Israel and its land. It is clear that Paul is not referring to the church when he writes of Israel. He is writing of a future Israel. He has previously said that Israel is partially hardened. Paul is not now making a change in the identity of “Israel” when he writes that “all Israel will be saved” (v. 26).

The point is that at the present time only a remnant of Israel is saved. But in the future, Israel as a nation will be saved. This is consistent with Old Testament prophecies, and the present possession of the land by Israel today is consistent with this future consummation of the purposes of God.

APPLY

When you read the Old Testament, note all of the references to Israel’s future and the land promises. These promises are central to the Abrahamic Covenant.

Isn’t it wonderful to see how Israel’s present unbelief results in Gentiles sharing in the blessings of God? But these present blessings which followers of Jesus enjoy do not result in the church replacing Israel. God’s promises to Israel stand.

ASK

What is one of the purposes of Israel's present day unbelief? Praise God that unbelief is not final. What will happen in the future to the nation of Israel? In what way will Israel be saved?

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Is there one way of salvation today for a Jewish person and another way of salvation for a Gentile?

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Why is anti-Semitism so sinful?

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PRAY

Lord, give me an increasing love for the Jewish people and for the land of Israel. May I appreciate more and more the blessings which I receive through the grace of God. Thank you for your great mercy towards a sinner like me.

JEREMIAH 31:35–37

“Thus says the Lord,
who gives the sun for light by day
and the fixed order of the moon and the stars for light by night,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar —
the Lord of hosts is his name:
‘If this fixed order departs
from before me, declares the Lord,
then shall the offspring of Israel cease
from being a nation before me forever.’

Thus says the Lord:
‘If the heavens above can be measured,
and the foundations of the earth below can be explored,
then I will cast off all the offspring of Israel
for all that they have done,
declares the Lord.’”



