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God's Plans for the Jewish People - Romans 11



By Steven J. Hogan

~ A Saturday Morning Post #181 ~

What about the future of the Jewish people? Has God nullified His promises to them about giving them land, a King, and salvation? (Ezekiel 37:24-28)? Has God, because of their rejection of Him, rejected them? Have His promises to the Jews been given to the church? What are God's plans for them during this church age? Romans 11 answers these questions, with a specific emphasis on His plans to save a remnant of Jews.

Romans 11:1-10. *"May it never be!"* In the strongest of words, Paul

tells us that God has not rejected the Jews. He wants us to know that *“there has also come to be at the present time a remnant,”* this remnant referring to Jews who would be saved during this church age. This remnant is comprised of Jews whom God foreknew, those He planned to save from eternity past. Paul makes it clear that their salvation is by God’s grace, not by their works, so that all Jews who are saved, are saved, because of God’s *“gracious choice.”* Ephesians 1:4

What about the Jews who are not saved? *“The rest were hardened,”* for they did not repent of their sins and believe in the Messiah – and God hardens the hearts of all those who do not believe, who willingly harden their hearts against Him. A great majority of the Jews rejected Jesus, not just in the first century (Acts 13:44-52), but throughout the centuries. So there’s this partial hardening of the Jews, but the good news is that it’s not a complete hardening, for this remnant is still being saved. Not only that, but this hardening is temporary, for at the end of Daniel’s 70th week, *“all Israel will be saved”* (Rom. 11:25). Indeed, God will keep His promise to His chosen people! *“He has sent redemption to His people; He has ordained His covenant forever; holy and awesome is His name.”* Psalm 111:9

Romans 11:11-16. Paul speaks of the Jewish people as ones who stumbled, but did not fall, meaning that God’s plan for *“all Israel to be saved”* is now on hold, but as I just noted, only for a time, for after this age is over, after the rapture of the church, they will be fulfilled. But why did God allow the Jews to stumble? He did it for the sake of the Gentiles. The sin of the Jews, their rejection of Messiah, is resulting in a large number of Gentiles being saved during this church age, and Paul, *“an apostle of Gentiles,”* was thankful for this. Paul also knew that when the Gentile-hating Jews saw Gentiles being saved (Gal. 3:6-14), they would be jealous, resulting in some of them, that is, this remnant, trusting in the Messiah and being saved.

Paul then shares with us the bigger and eternal picture, that all this will turn out, not just for the present good of the Gentiles, but for the future good of the Jews. *"How much more will their fulfillment be?" "What will their acceptance be but life from the dead*?" Throughout the years, millions of Jews have rejected Christ, but all Jews alive at the end of Daniel's 70th week will accept Him, and *"all Israel will be saved"* (Dan. 9:24). *"Israel has been saved by the Lord with an everlasting salvation"* (Isaiah 45:17). Their salvation sets the stage for Jesus' 1000-year glorious reign, when all these newly saved Jews will worship Him and be ruling with Him! Hebrews 11:10-16, 39-40

Romans 11:17-24. Paul, being a Jew, knew how much the Gentiles hated Jews, and how they might get deceived, thinking they were saved because they were better than the Jews. So Paul says to these Gentiles, *"and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in"* and were partakers of the *"rich root."* He wanted them to know that it was because some Jews were broken off due to their unbelief that they would be grafted in, would be saved during this church age. This *"rich root"* refers to God's unconditional promise to Abraham – *"And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed"* (Gen. 12:3). Not only that, but their God-given faith in Christ was the same kind of faith Abraham had. (Gen. 15:5-21, Rom. 4:9-25). Only because of God's promise, power, and grace would these Gentiles be saved. To make doubly sure these Gentiles knew it wasn't just about God's love for them, Paul reminds them that God will graft the Jews in again, which will happen at Christ's 2nd coming. *"This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days… I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."* This leads us to the next verses:

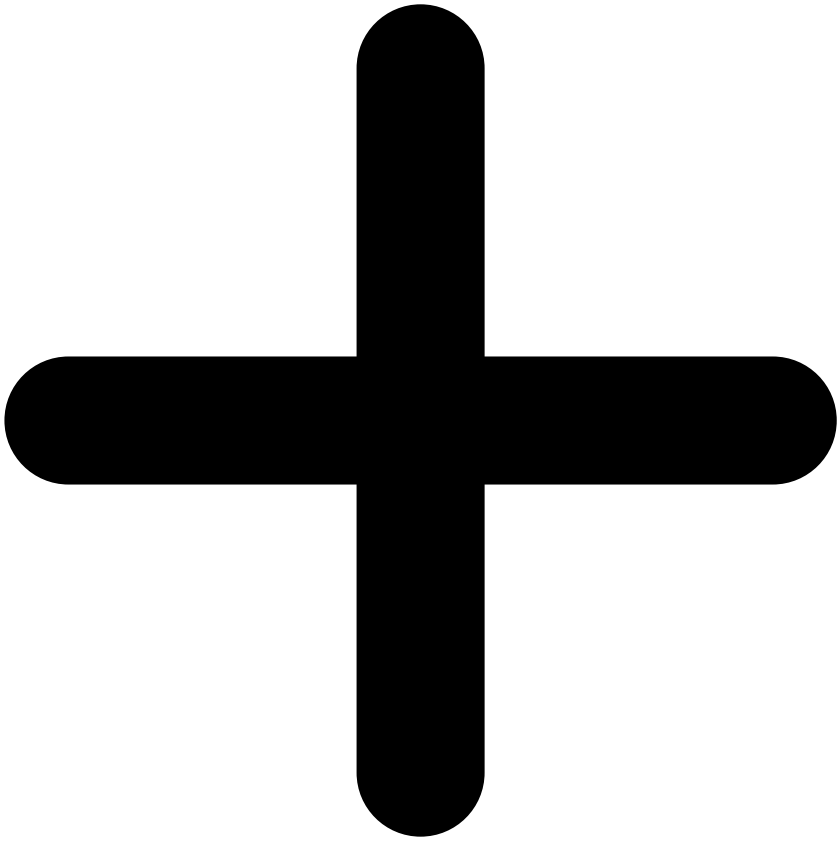
Romans 11:25-32. In no way does God want us *"to be uninformed,"* to be ignorant about His plans for the Jews. He wants us to know that this *"partial hardening"* of the Jews, which has been happening for close to 2000 years, will not continue. Now that the Jews are back in their land, we know we are living in the end-times, and that it won't be long before

this age comes to an end, and we will say, the *"fullness of the Gentiles has come in"* – and *"all Israel will be saved."* Once all the Gentiles whom God has chosen to save, are saved, then all the Jewish people whom God has chosen to save, will be saved, will be forgiven of their sins. *"There is forgiveness with You… and He will redeem Israel from all his iniquities."* Psalm 130:4, 8

As Gentile Christians, we may think the Jews are our enemies, but we need to see them as ones loved by God, and so we are to love them too. We read that *"the gifts and calling of God are irrevocable,"* which means God won't go back on His word, but will keep His promise to save the Jews. God does not lie or change His mind, and He has not cancelled His people – He will be true to His word! In the near future, this partial and temporary hardening of the Jewish people will come to an end, and *"all Israel will be saved."* Just like God was merciful to us when we were disobedient, so too God will be merciful to this remnant of Jews. *"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy."* Romans 9:15

Romans 11:33-36. In the first 11 chapters of his letter to the Romans, we see God's holiness, wisdom, power, and sovereignty. We read about His righteousness, and how we are righteous in Christ, and are loved and forgiven. Here in Romans 11 we understand God's present and future plans for the Jewish people. As we dwell on the character, work, and ways of God, we cannot help but be overwhelmed, for we realize how awesome and magnificent He is, that He alone is holy and supreme. Then think how Jesus Christ humbled Himself so God could save us from our sins, bring us into His presence, adopt us as His children, and give us eternal life. Might we be humbled, and give God all the praise, glory, thanks, and honor that He deserves. *"For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen."*

P.S. As Christians, we must understand the and plans God has for the Jewish people. Many believe that God has forsaken His people, but that’s not true. I have written five articles carefully explaining what God wants us to know about His present and future plans for the Jewish people. Here is the first article: Replacement Theology: It’s Not True – Part 1.



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