

This is key in examining the plan of God pertaining Israel.

Romans 11:25 (NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of **this mystery**, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

Romans 11:1-5 1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, [of] the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 “LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”? 4 But what does the divine response say to him? “**I have reserved for Myself** seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.” 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

- **There has always been a remnant of Jewish believers.** Paul uses the example of Elijah who thought he was the only one left and **God told him, I have reserved for Myself 7000.**
- Though we have not seen a national turning to Jesus Christ, God has always held onto the remnant of Jewish believers by grace.
 - *Paul answer's the question “has God forsaken Israel, or have they stumbled in such a way that they can no longer be saved or are no longer part of God's plan?”* **Paul gives the definitive answer certainly not! God has not forsaken or forgotten them.**
 - **The Apostle Paul is a wonderful example of how God is able to awaken a heart that rejects Jesus.** He was called by the Lord on the road to Damascus and embraced not only the message of faith and the Messiah, but also the mantle of apostle to the Gentiles. Paul came to faith in Jesus Christ through a revelation of Jesus who he was persecuting.
- **Because of the Jews rejection of the message of the gospel that came through the prophets, and through the apostolic preaching blindness set in, and the nation was set aside as the conduit God would use for his redemptive work in offering salvation to the rest of the world.**
- **This is part of understanding the mystery of how God works for the greater good of all because He loves all of us equally Jew and Gentile.**

- As we see the beauty of this covenant keeping God and apply our hearts to His sovereign purposes it causes us to worship him in all of His wisdom and supremacy.
- God by nature never enjoys the disobedience and the devastating consequences of disobedience. **The state of Israel, being fallen is not desirable by God so what does God do with Israel's choice?**
- **He redeemed the choice for the sake of the Gentiles. He alone has the power to bring good out of evil. This is God's specialty. He takes the scraps of disobedience and fashions a beautiful garment. The Gentiles, who wear this garment will provoke Israel to return to God.**
- Through Israel's transgressions salvation has come to the Gentiles..."That's one of those amazing mysteries of God! The rejection of the Messiah and His crucifixion opened the way for salvation to come to the entire Gentile world.
 - We see this illustrated in **Matthew 10:5-6** (NKJV) 5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.
 - Israel had the first offer, they refused; because of their refusal and their rejection of the Messiah the opportunity for salvation was extended to all other nations.

Matthew 21, the parable of the vinedresser, **Matthew 21:43**, Jesus said this to the Jewish people: "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a nation producing the fruit of it."

Romans 11:11-15 (NKJV) 11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to **provoke them to jealousy**, salvation [has come] to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall [is] riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by **any means I may provoke to jealousy** [those who are] my flesh and save some of them. 15 For if their being cast away [is] the reconciling of the world, what [will] their acceptance [be] but life from the dead?

Paul emphasizes. The way that the other nations receive and embrace the gospel should make the Jews jealous. The idea is bigger than simply making Israel envious of Gentile blessings.

Paul envisions **Gentile believers so fully living in the reality of God's covenant purposes that Israel becomes stirred to desire what they see in Christ.**

I want us to spend some time contemplating what it looks like for us to live in such a way that it actually provokes a desire in the hearts of others to have what you have. Let's dream how we individually but even more so in unity with all believers will provoke Jews and Gentiles to desire what we have been given by grace through faith.

The Greek word provoke comes from two root words, one means 'near' speaking of proximity, and the other word means to 'burn with zeal' or to 'earnestly desire' or 'pursue'.

Paul explains that the Gentile Church would provoke Israel to jealousy by **living in the fullness of what Israel's Messiah has accomplished.**

The Gentiles, who were once outside the covenant, are now experiencing **salvation, the presence of God, the Holy Spirit, forgiveness, sonship, worship, and fellowship with God through Jesus.** We cannot dismiss the reality that every gift we have today is because God chose a people group to bring revelation of Himself. **Romans 9:4-5 (NKJV)** 4 who are Israelites, to whom [pertain] the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service [of God,] and the promises; 5 of whom [are] the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ [came,] who is over all, [the] eternally blessed God. Amen.

As Israel sees these realities being lived out among Gentile believers, it is meant to awaken a longing within them for what they see. **We treasure how God has blessed us through the Jewish people, we value them as people etc. we are not saying leave your beautiful culture behind and reject all that you know, we humble ourselves and want to know Christ more fully through what has been entrusted to the Jew.**

This jealousy is not meant to be **competition or replacement**—as though the Church says, “*God rejected you and chose us.*” Paul specifically warns Gentile believers not to boast over Israel (Romans 11:18). **Romans 11:14 says: “In order somehow to make my fellow Jews jealous and thus save some of them.”** Notice Paul's goal: **jealousy leading to salvation.**

The Church provokes Israel to jealousy when **Christ is visibly formed in His people**—through love, holiness, worship, the Holy Spirit, and genuine fellowship with God—that Jewish people begin to recognize something familiar: **the God of their Scriptures and the promises given to their fathers are being fulfilled in Jesus and His church.**

- The Church provokes Israel to jealousy when Jewish people encounter **a people who actually love the God of Israel as well as love and support Israel and live according to the likeness of the Messiah.**
- **Think about what provokes you to be more. (Prayer, evangelist, etc)**

John 13:35. John 13:35 (NKJV) “By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

The Gentiles are supposed to honor Israel, not replace Israel

Paul uses the imagery of an **olive tree** in Romans 11. **The Gentiles are wild branches grafted into Israel's cultivated olive tree. They don't become a new tree.** Paul says: You do not support the root, but the root supports you. — **Romans 11:18**

“We haven't forgotten where we came from. Your Scriptures are our Scriptures. Your Messiah is our Messiah. Your God is our God. We have been grafted into what God began through you.”

That kind of Gentile humility can actually awaken Israel to the significance of Jesus

Paul's ultimate expectation is not that Israel will become jealous of **Christianity as a religion.** It's that Israel will become jealous of **the Messiah and the relationship with God that they see manifested among His people.**

And that makes Romans 11 profoundly different from a **replacement theology** framework. Paul doesn't envision the Gentile Church triumphing over Israel. He envisions the Gentile Church becoming so **Christlike, Spirit-filled, Scripture-rooted, and loving toward Israel** that Israel is stirred to reconsider the Messiah they rejected. **This provoking must be a miraculous work of the Holy Spirit!**

Romans 11:15 For if their being cast away [is] the reconciling of the world, what [will] their acceptance [be] but life from the dead?

Think about this for a moment. If the world was reconciled when they were cast away (willingly rejecting the Messiah) what will happen on a Global level when they accept Jesus Christ as Lord? (Zechariah 12)

- **Global church revival:** Many believe it points to a massive spiritual awakening for the entire global church. When Israel turns to Christ, it will inject vibrant new spiritual life into all believers everywhere
- **National Revival for Jews:** Some see it describing the Jewish people themselves. Moving from a state of spiritual unbelief (likened to a dry bone or death) into faith in Jesus feels like coming back to life.
- **The Final Resurrection:** Others connect it directly to the end times and the return of Jesus Christ, marking the literal resurrection of the dead and the final renewal of the world.