



The Book of ROMANS

Chapter 11

“Israel’s Future!”

> **Reminder:** In Romans chapters 9 – 11 we observe *Israel’s past election* (Ch. 9); *Israel’s present rejection* (Ch. 10); and *Israel’s future restoration* (Ch. 11).

~ *In Romans Chapter 11 we will experience:*

I) Israel’s Past (v1-12)

II) Israel’s Present (v13-25)

III) Israel’s Future (v26-36)

I) Israel’s Past (v1-12)

(v1) Insight on Israel - *C.I. Scofield* writes, “Israel, so named from the grandson of Abraham, was chosen for a fourfold mission: (1) to witness to the unity of God in the midst of universal idolatry (cp. Dt. 6:4 with Isa. 43:10); (2) to illustrate to the nations the blessedness of serving the true God (Dt. 33:26-29; 1 Chr. 17:20-21; Ps. 144:15); (3) to receive, preserve, and transmit the Scriptures (Dt. 4:5-8; Rom. 3:1-2); and (4) to be the human channel for the Messiah (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:18; 28:10-14; 49:10; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Mt. 1:1; Rom. 1:3).

According to the prophets Israel, regathered from all nations, restored to her own land and converted, is yet to have her greatest earthly exaltation and glory.”

(v2-6) Story of Elijah – 1 Kings 18:17 – 19:18

- What is *Baal worship*? - A fertility and nature god of the Canaanites and Phoenicians. In the reign of Ahab, Baal was served in Israel by 450 priests (1 Kings 18:19), as well as by prophets (2 Kings 10:19), and his worshippers wore special vestments when this ritual was performed (2 Kings 10:22). The ordinary offering made to the god consisted of incense (Jer 7:9) and burnt sacrifices; on extraordinary occasions the victim was human (Jer 19:5). At times the priests worked themselves into a state of ecstasy, and dancing round the altar slashed themselves with knives (1 Kings 18:26,28), like certain dervish orders in modern Islam. (*Dervish is a member of a Muslim religious order noted for devotional exercises as bodily movements leading to a trance.*)

(v7-12) National Israel is set aside, but not permanently. A remnant is being saved, but the gentiles are receiving the riches of God’s salvation through their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ!

II) Israel's Present (v13-25)

(v13-25) Gentiles listen up & be warned!

(v13-14) Paul received a personal call from the Lord to minister to the Gentiles - Acts 26:14-18- *And when we all had fallen to the ground, I heard a voice speaking to me and saying in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So I said, 'Who are You, Lord?' And He said, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things which you have seen and of the things which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.*

(v15) Israel will come alive from the dead – let us read Ezekiel 37:1-14 - Jesus said in Matthew 24:32-35 - *"Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. So you also, when you see all these things, know that it is near -- at the doors! Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.*

Israel did not repent of its sin at the end of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity. Some of Jews did return to the Promised Land, but the majority simply settled in the Persian Empire (Iran-Iraq). So how long until God would regather the Jews and restore them back as the Nation of Israel? The solution to the mystery is found in Leviticus 26. *"If after all this you will not listen to me, I will punish you for your sins seven times over."*

- Leviticus 26:18 In other words, if Israel did not repent, the punishment promised would be multiplied by seven times. There was a prophet of God named Ezekiel, like Daniel, he too was captured and carried off to Babylon. He was there for about 20 years and like Daniel he also knew the prophecies of Jeremiah that the captivity in Babylon would last 70 years. The Lord appeared to Ezekiel and gave him this vision, *"Then take an iron pan, place it as an iron wall between you and the city and turn your face toward it. It will be under siege, and you shall besiege it. This will be a sign to the house of Israel. "Then lie on your left side and put the sin of the house of Israel upon yourself. You are to bear their sin for the number of days you lie on your side. I have assigned you the same number of days as the years of their sin. So for 390 days you will bear the sin of the house of Israel. "After you have finished this, lie down again, this time on your right side, and bear the sin of the house of Judah. I have assigned you 40 days, a day for each year.*

- Ezekiel 4:3-6 - That's 390 years for the house of Israel and 40 years for the house of Judah. That's 430 years, but we have to subtract the 70 years that Israel had served during the Babylonian captivity. So now Israel owed God 360 years of punishment, multiplied seven times: $360 \text{ years} \times 7 = 2,520$ biblical years of 360 days each.

So, when did the 2,520 year punishment begin? From the Bible and other historical sources, including Flavius Josephus, the end of the Babylonian captivity occurred in the spring of 536 B.C. This date will be our starting point.

$2,520 \text{ biblical years} \times 360 = 907,200 \text{ days}$. Converting this figure into our calendar year of 365.25 days and dividing into 907,200 days we reach a total of 2,483.8 calendar years. (In these calculations we must keep in mind that there is only one year between 1 B.C. and A.D. 1). Therefore, the end of Israel's worldwide captivity would occur after a total of 2,483.8 years had elapsed from the spring of 536 B.C. God slowly started fulfilling Ezekiel's vision, from around the world Jews started going back to the promised land. God breathed new life and spirit into the Jews.

On May 14, 1948, exactly 2,520 years, since the end of the Babylonian captivity, the Jews shocked the world. They proclaimed the independence of the reborn state of Israel, even while six Arab nations simultaneously prepared to invade the tiny country to destroy it at its birth. In a sudden and unprovoked onslaught, the armies of Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and volunteer forces from Saudi Arabia, converged upon Israel. It was David versus Goliath all over again. To any intelligent observer it was obvious that the Arabs would make short work of the undermanned and under-equipped Jews. If Israel was to survive it would take a miracle. And it was and still is, God has brought them back and He is keeping them in their land.

(v16-22) Gentiles have been grafted in through the root of faith. Do not take this for granted, the Bible talks about an apostasy (a falling away) in the last days (1 Tim. Ch. 4; 2 Tim Ch. 3; 2 Thess. ch. 2; Rev. 3:14-22- Laodicea – the harlot church that goes into the Great Tribulation).

(v23-25) What is the mystery that we should not be ignorant of? That Israel's blindness in part will be removed *when the fullness of the Gentiles has come in*. When will the fullness of the Gentiles come in, this will be the completion of the purpose of God in this age, i.e. the outcalling from among the Gentiles of a people for Christ's name, "*the church, which is His body*": (Eph. 1:22-23). Cp. Acts 15:14; ! Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 4:11-13. It must be distinguished from "*the times of the Gentiles*" found in Luke 21:23-24 - *For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people. And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations. And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*

III) Israel's Future (v26-36)

(v26-27) What does it mean, "all Israel will be saved?" This is not speaking of a national identity, whereas every Jew is automatically saved in the Great Tribulation, but rather those that turn to their Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation through faith, like Abraham.

In the Great Tribulation (Rev. Ch. 6 - 19) Israel will recognize their Messiah to be Jesus. In fact Revelation Ch. 7 tells us that 144,000 Jews from the twelve tribes of Israel will be preaching that Jesus is their Messiah and many will be saved.

Jeremiah 23:3-8 - "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD. "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. "Therefore, behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that they shall no longer say, 'As the LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' but, 'As the LORD lives who brought up and led the descendants of the house of Israel from the north country and from all the countries where I had driven them.' And they shall dwell in their own land."

Isaiah 59:20-21 - The Redeemer will come to Zion, and to those who turn from transgression in Jacob (which is Israel)," Says the LORD. "As for Me," says the LORD, "this is My covenant with them: My Spirit who is upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."

Israel's restoration is found in Zechariah 12:10 - "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

(v28-32) God's mercy on all!

(v33-36) God is incredible!