



1. So what do you think God's purpose was for Israel's rejection? (Romans 11:11) \_\_\_\_\_

Now if the whole world become enriched as a result of God's offer of salvation, when the Jews stumbled over it and turned it down, think how much greater a blessing and advantage the world will share in, later, on when Israel is reinstated and comes to Christ (Romans 11:12).

Paul says he is a special messenger to the Gentiles and he reminds the Jews of this as often as he can by greatly stressing the point (Romans 11:13).

2. Why does Paul stress this point so much to the Jews? (Romans 11:14) \_\_\_\_\_

Paul is trying to provoke the Jews to jealousy so they will want what the Gentile Christians have and get saved.

In Romans 11:16 Paul begins his argument for salvation made possible for Israel. He argues that *if the first fruit be holy* (meaning the first Jews who accepted the gospel), *the lump is also holy* (referring to the nation of Israel that will become holy in the end [Isaiah 66:7-8; Zechariah 12:10-13:1; 14:1-21]). The words *root* and *fatness of the olive tree*, refers to Christ and God's blessings of the Abrahamic and

New Covenant. The *branches* are the Israelites, like the true Christians are the branches in the vine (Romans 11:17). Israel is pictured in Romans 11:17 also as the *branches* of an *olive tree* and the Gentile believer of a *wild olive tree*, or the cluster which bears no fruit, some are *broken off because of unbelief* (Romans 11:20) and Gentiles take their place to partake of Israel's blessings (Romans 11:17).

The Gentile Christians are what they are only because they have become 'Abraham's seed.' Consequently there is still hope for unbelieving Israel. <sup>1</sup> PROMISE OF ISRAEL'S RESTORATION (Romans 11:25-32)

1. When Paul speaks to the brethren ...*not to be ignorant of this mystery*, in Romans 11:25, what do you think he meant when he said, "*mystery?*" (p. 45)

Paul reveals to us here a *mystery*, which is Israel's blindness; and salvation in Christ (Romans 11:25). This revelation was given to Paul by God.

In Romans 11:26, were we read, *...all Israel shall be saved*: all Israel should be understood as the believers in Israel as a whole. For (1) the number of Jewish believers will greatly increase during the Great Tribulation (Deuteronomy 4:30-31; Hosea 5:14-6:3; Revelation 7:1-8). The Tribulation will end

1. Beacon Bible Commentary, Romans, p. 226.