

GOD'S POWERFUL PROMISES

ROMANS 11:11-24

Didn't God promise Israel to be His chosen ones? What happened? Where are they in regard to those promises?

- We know the Jews rejected the Gospel so God sent it to the Gentiles, who believed and were saved.
- **THREE TRAGEDIES OCCURRED IN ISRAEL:** The nation fell (**ROM. 11:11**), was lost (**ROM. 11:12**), and was cast away (**ROM. 11:15**). However, this was not a final judgment on Israel.

1. THE LUMP OF DOUGH v. 16a

THE REFERENCE HERE IS TO NUMBERS 15:17-21 WITH ITS HEAVE OFFERING.

- The first part of the dough was offered up to God as a symbol that the entire lump belonged to Him.
- The same idea was involved in the Feast of Firstfruits, when the priest offered a sheaf to the Lord as a token that the entire harvest was His. **LEV. 23:9-14**

THE BASIC IDEA IS THAT WHEN GOD ACCEPTS THE PART, HE SANCTIFIES THE WHOLE.

A STERN WARNING FOR TODAY

Hidden here is a stern warning to Gentiles about having the same arrogant, presumptuous pride that caused unbelieving Israel's fall from blessing.

- Both anti-Semitism and replacement theology come from this dead and rotten branch—religious pride—that God is done with national Israel.
- Some “Christianized” cults, Jehovah's Witness, and 7th Day Adventism are based on the notion of British Israel-ism, and are anti-Semitic.

THE PIECE AND THE LUMP

Through Moses, God instructed His newly-delivered people on this very thing. **NUM. 15:19-21**

- God's people Israel are the lump.
- The Gentile church is the piece.

If God forsook Israel, He would renege on His promises—something His holy character will not allow.

- Because He saved the ***PIECE/THE CHURCH***, in order to be faithful to His own word, the Lord must provide a future salvation for the ***LUMP/ISRAEL***.

2. THE OLIVE TREE v. 16b-24

Here the apostle makes his point by referring to the familiar practice of grafting olive trees.

- In place of the unfaithful, unproductive branches of Israel, those of *a wild olive*—the believing Gentiles—*were grafted in among them*.
- If God cut off an apostate Israel—His chosen people—because of her unbelief, how much more surely will He cut off an apostate church because of unbelief?

REVELATION 2:15-16, 3:16, 17:16

THE WONDERFUL FUTURE v. 23-24

Through Zechariah the Lord declared, *“I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication.”* **ZECH. 12:10**

- One of the more interesting texts that promises the future restoration of Israel is found in **REV. 11:1-4**.
- During the time of the Great Tribulation, the Jews will be converted (**ZECH. 12:8-14, 13:1-2**) and be marked off by God as His own for protection during the Day of the Lord . . . **AND THE TEMPLE WILL BE REBUILT!**

THE GENTILES OUT, ISRAEL IN

The two witnesses of **REV. 11** speak of Israel's coming salvation.

- They are called "*the two olive trees and the two lampstands*"—the terminology is taken from Zechariah's vision. **ZECH. 3 & 4**
- *Joshua and Zerubbabel* were God's tools for the ancient physical and spiritual restoration of Israel.
- *Moses and Elijah* are next, because **GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. ISA. 59:20-21**