

Romans, pt.17, 11, 3.18.07

The Salvation of Natural Israel

Romans 11

### Introduction

- I believe it is essential for us to understand God's heart for natural Israel & participate in His plan to save her! This is one of the most critical subjects of our time. I'd put it up there with Top 10 things every Christian needs to be walking in – salvation, fullness of the Holy Spirit, the bridal paradigm of the body of Christ, the love of God, our position & authority in Christ & our role in the salvation of natural Israel.
- Listen how this excites Paul – 11.33–36. This marvelous proclamation erupts from Paul's heart as he thinks about God's plan to save natural Israel.
- Why is the salvation of natural Israel important? Review the message on 2.18.07. 1. They are God's birthing people. Their presence in the land is a clear sign the return (His second birth) of the Lord is near! The Lord will return as natural Israel begins responding in mass to Jesus as their Messiah. They are blind today, but literally w/in a short period they could turn to Jesus. (Interview Binny Hinn had with Foreign Minister of Israel)
- 2. Another important reason is as they come to faith in Jesus, we will see the fulfillment of Eph.2.14–16 & Jesus' last prayer in John 17.
- A final reason is b/c their transformation will lead to the transformation of the world! (Rom.11.12) This is more than getting the gospel to an unreached people group; their salvation will accelerate the salvation of every lost people group. We can join in God's activity to save natural Israel & share in the rewards of their salvation.

1. God has not rejected natural Israel. (11.1–10)

- Read 11.1
- Three groups that reject Israel: Preterist – believe the teaching of tribulation in Matt.24, Mark 14 & Luke 21 have already been fulfilled. They were fulfilled when Jerusalem was destroyed in 70 AD. The Jews have no special role.
- Replacement theology – the church or the body of Christ replaces Israel as God’s chosen people.
- The ignorant – Most people don’t know what God’s plan is with Israel...they don’t understand their significance...may have a little understanding about their end time...they see them as just a nation with a past dynasty, but no better than anyone else.
- 11.2–5: There was & is a remnant of natural Israel that had & does have their faith in Jesus
- 11.7–8: Since they rejected Jesus God placed them in a spiritual coma; they aren’t completely dead, but they aren’t fully alive.
- They rejected him, but he didn’t reject them but their rejection led to their hardening. They consistently rejected God’s plan for them & eventually led to the rejection of Christ.
  - Appl – Whenever you reject the activity of God, at some point your heart grows one degree colder until you repent...
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- 2. God has opened the door of salvation to the Gentiles. (11.11– 25)
  - Their hardening led to our salvation (11.11f) & the salvation of every people group
    - Stories of salvation in Muslim countries (look under dreams in Breaking Christian News)
  - We have been grafted into the tree of God’s redemption (11.17–21).
    - Bill Winniford illustrating grafting

- This (being grafted into God’s redemptive plan) isn’t a place of arrogance, but fear (v.19–22). God broke off Israel due to her rebellion & he will do the same to us.
    - Their rebellion was crystallized at the rejection of Jesus
  - I don’t believe the olive tree is natural Israel, but the tree of faith that both natural Jew & Gentiles are grafted into. Jews will also be grafted into it (11.16, 23). Rom.2.28f. indicates that true Jewishness is based on faith in God. You can be a natural Jew and not a spiritual Jew. Abraham was a Gentile who became a Jew not b/c of birth, but b/c of faith. His circumcision was an outward testimony of his faith. He is the root system of this tree of faith.
3. God will save Israel! (11.25–36)
- It will begin happening when the “pleroma” is reached – 11.25. We don’t know what that # is. Jesus said in Luke 21.24, “Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel reclaiming Jerusalem as their capital.
  - God chose Israel – 11.28. He’s not turning his back on them;
  - God’s call of natural Israel can never be withdrawn – 11.29.
    - Application for your life. If God has asked you to do something he hasn’t withdrawn his offer.
  - THEY WILL BE SAVED! – 11.26
    - It’s a done deal; you can be a part of it or sit on the sidelines. If someone gave you a treasure map & said it was 100% accurate & there was millions of dollars worth of treasure, would you go look for it?  
Absolutely. God is giving us an opportunity to join him in the salvation of the Jews and the reward is huge!
    - They will be saved as everyone is, by faith in Jesus. There is no two covenant relationship with Jesus. Gentile come one way & Jews another, we both come the same way through the cross.
    - Satan is resisting God’s plan to save Israel (Rev.12)and working to create apathy, confusion or rejection in the

Christian community towards natural Israel. Their salvation means the end of his reign as god of this age!

- I believe Satan will cause another holocaust for the Jews & believers also. We must stand with Israel as believers. WE don't have to agree with their political decisions, but we must pray for their salvation & protection.

### Invitation

- Does your heart erupt in joy over God's awesome & mysterious plan to save Israel? Paul's response - 11.33-36.
- God wants us to feel His heart for natural Israel...if you have a little desire for the Jews & the Jewish nation I want you to come forward
- This isn't about getting a prayer shawl & listening to Jewish music, but it's about being struck with one of God's great & divine mysteries!
- It begins small, but the more you pray for them the more you will begin to feel God's heart for them. You don't have to feel a thing...just say "yes" to God's invitation.