

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

Romans

A New Life

Lesson #14: The Future of Israel (Part I)

INTRODUCTION

Do you believe Jewish people today are still God's chosen people? Why or why not?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Romans 11:1-24

1. When you "feel" alone why is it common to complain to the Lord? Why did the Jews do this?
2. How has God shown Israel He has not left them? How has He shown you He has not left you?
3. If God worked in Elijah's heart and your heart, why can't He can work in your enemies' heart?
4. What is the cause of Israel's blindness? Our blindness?
5. What are the consequences for the Israelites who reject Jesus Christ? Why are these consequences inevitable for anyone who persistently rejects the gospel?
6. How did Israel's rejection of Christ result in riches for others? **Matt 8:11; 21:43; 22:1-14**
7. Why is Paul convinced that even greater blessings will come from the Jews' acceptance of Christ?
8. Why should Paul's illustration of the olive tree prevent believing Gentiles from feeling superior to unbelieving Israelites? Why is it foolish for Christians today to feel superior to non-Christians?

Note: Olive trees can live to be hundreds of years old but as they age they become less productive. Younger branches are grafted to the stronger (old) root system to create a more fruitful tree.

APPLICATION

Pray to the Lord that He continually use you for His glory during all circumstances good and bad.

Over a quarter of a century ago a Russian Jew of great learning named Joseph Rabbino-witz was sent to Palestine by the Jews to buy land for them. He went to Jerusalem. One day he went up on the Mount of Olives to rest. Someone had told him to take a New Testament as the best guidebook about Jerusalem. The Christ he had known was the Christ of the Greek and Roman churches, who were his persecutors and the persecutors of his people. But as he read the New Testament he became acquainted with the real Christ of whom the Old Testament Scriptures had foretold, and his heart grew warm. He looked off toward Calvary and thought: Why is it that my people are persecuted and cast out? And his conviction gave the answer: It must be because we have put to death our Messiah. He lifted his eyes to that Messiah and said: "My Lord and my God." He came down from the mount a disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. He went home to Russia and erected a synagogue for the Jews, over the door of which was written: "Let all the house of Israel know that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" [Acts 2:36]. He was one of the many present remnant of Israel, which proves conclusively and better than words that God has not cast away His people. (Israel: At the Center of History and Revelation [Portland, Ore.: Multnomah, 1980], p. 108)¹

¹ MacArthur, J. (1996). *Romans* (Ro 11:2). Chicago: Moody Press.