

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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

## *Romans*

A New Life

### **Lesson #15: The Future of Israel (Part II)**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

What difference does it make whether God has “rejected” Israel?

#### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

##### **Read Romans 11: 25-36**

*Note: Sovereignty. The word is not found in Scripture. But the concept—that God is free to act as He chooses, without any limits set by the actions of another—is deeply rooted in the biblical concept of God. Election. The New Testament often uses the term “the elect” or “God’s elect” to identify believers (cf. 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 Peter 1:1). The Greek words indicate a “choice or selection.” Some Christians believe that election implies God’s choice of who will believe, while others say it implies His choice of those who do believe. See Ephesians 1:4, 11.<sup>1</sup>*

1. What mystery has Christ revealed in your life concerning spiritual blindness?
2. If you trust in Christ and believe in your heart, you will be saved. What are the consequences if you do not?
3. Will *all* of Israel be saved? **Isa 45:17** Or remnants of Israel? **1 Ths 5:24**
4. Why is unbelief in both the Jews and Gentiles such a powerful force? What made you believe?
5. If it is simple to be saved why is it so hard to believe? vv. **1 Cor 2:14; Isa 55:8-9**
6. If God has given you everything – what can you give Him?
7. How can the description of God encourage you to trust and praise him?

#### **APPLICATION**

Like the Jews, we can be frustrated with the gap between where we are and where we yearn to be. Thank God that His plans are greater than anything we can conceive!

*When M’Cheyne returned from Palestine, he preached a sermon from the words, “To the Jew first,” advocating Christian missions to the Jews on the ground that judgment will begin with the Jews, on the ground of God’s special love for the Jews, on the ground of peculiar access to the Jews, and on the ground that the Jews, if converted, will give life to the whole world. From their peculiar position, scattered throughout the nations, and being of an industrious and commercial disposition, the Jews are specially fitted to do missionary work. Reach the Jews as a people, bring them under the influence of the gospel, and through them you reach the whole world.<sup>2</sup>*

*God has taken us out from under the Law. Law did its work in making us aware of our sin and failure. The Law did its work in making us feel condemned. The Law did its work in forcing us to look away from ourselves to God—to find some other way. And God had that other way prepared. Righteousness is imputed to men by faith. The death of Christ provided a basis on which forgiveness could be extended, freely, to all. What’s more, the faith through which forgiveness comes also is the secret to actually becoming righteous. Through faith, in a deepening personal relationship with God, the new in us grows, and the Spirit’s power is released to shape Christ Himself in our personalities.*

*The Law shouted out demands, telling us what we should be but are not. Grace invites us to accept ourselves as forgiven sinners—and to trust God to help us become new. But becoming takes time.<sup>3</sup>*

<sup>1 2</sup> Richards, L., & Richards, L. O. (1987). *The teacher’s commentary* (827). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.

<sup>3</sup> *The Pulpit Commentary: Romans*. 2004 (H. D. M. Spence-Jones, Ed.) (328). Bellingham, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

