

**Sermon Title: The Purpose of Israel's Rejection**

**Sermon Text: Romans 11:11-24**

**Sermon Purpose: To call the hearer to a better understanding of the Sovereign plan of God, in providing salvation for the nations.**

**Sermon Proposition: There are 3 preordained principles related to Sovereign plan, plea and praise of salvation.**

**I. The plan as it relates to Israel's rejection. Vv.11-15**

**II. The plea as it relates to Israel's rejection. Vv.16-21**

**III. The praise as it relates to Israel's rejection. Vv.22-24**

**I. The plan as it relates to Israel's rejection. Vv.11-15**

The benefits of Israel's partial rejection, due to unbelief are as follows:

A. The benefits of Israel's fall is fourfold. Vv.11-12a

1. The 1<sup>st</sup> benefit is that it is not a permanent fall. V.11a

2. The 2<sup>nd</sup> benefit is to provoke jealousy of Israel. V.11b

**(Romans 10:19-20; Matthew 22:1-14)**

**Matthew 21:43** "Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.

**Acts 13:46-47** Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles. **47** "For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should bring salvation to the ends of the earth.'"

**Acts 18:6** But when they opposed him and blasphemed, he shook *his* garments and said to them, "Your blood *be* upon your *own* heads; I *am* clean. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

**Acts 28:25-28** So when they did not agree among themselves, they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, **26** "saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; **27** For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'" **28** "Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"

3. The 3<sup>rd</sup> benefit provision of salvation for the Gentiles. V.11c

4. The 4<sup>th</sup> benefit brings riches for the world. V.12a

B. The benefit of Israel's failure is riches for the Gentiles. V.12b

Israel's temporary loss was to be the Gentiles permanent gain.

**Matthew 8:11-12** "And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. **12** "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Because of Israel's rejection of the King and His Kingdom, God has offered the King and the Kingdom, and the salvation it symbolizes, to people called out among the Gentiles.

**Ephesians 2:11-13** Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh-- who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands-- **12** that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

- C. The benefit of Israel's **fullness** as a witness to the world. V.12c (**Revelation 7:4-9**)  
**Genesis 12:3** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."  
**Exodus 19:6** `And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."  
**Isaiah 49:6** Indeed He says, `It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.'  
**Zechariah 12:10** "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. The tragedy of their rejection will be surpassed by the benefits and glory of their end time acceptance.

## II. The **plea** as it relates to Israel's rejection. Vv.16-21

The olive tree was a symbol of the nation of Israel. It was used in this section by Paul as an illustration or allegory of God's dealings with Jews and Gentiles.

The patriarchs are represented by the root of the tree. The Gentiles are a wild graft. Pruned off branches are unbelieving Jews. Salvation is by faith, and the Gentiles need to be humble about their position.

Spiritual pride has no place in salvation by grace. God is able to restore the Jewish people to the place of faith. Salvation is always a miraculous movement of God. It is no harder for God to save a Jew than a Gentile.

Paul provides a warning to Gentiles about having the same kind of arrogant, presumptuous pride that caused unbelieving Israel's removal from blessing. It did not take long for early Gentile Christians to fall prey to the attitude to scorn and ridicule the Jews because they had rejected Christ. This attitude fed the fire of anti-Semitism that had and still does exist in many Gentile nations and cultures for generations.

- A. The illustration of the dough

**Numbers 15:19-21** `then it will be, when you eat of the bread of the land, that you shall offer up a heave offering to the LORD. **20** `You shall offer up a cake of the first of your ground meal *as* a heave offering; as a heave offering of the threshing floor, so shall you offer it up. **21** `Of the first of your ground meal you shall give to the LORD a heave offering throughout your generations.

- B. The illustration of the tree and vine.

If the root Abraham and the patriarch is holy, then the branches, their descendants, are holy too. They were divinely called by the elective love of God, they were set apart before the foundation of the world, therefore God's work and plan for Israel will not be complete until they bear the spiritual fruit and fruitfulness He intends to produce in and through them, until the end of the age when they fully become the holy people they were destined to be, during the millennial reign of Jesus Christ.

**Isaiah 51:1** "Listen to Me, you who follow after righteousness, You who seek the LORD: Look to the rock *from which* you were hewn, And to the hole of the pit *from which* you were dug. **2** Look to Abraham your father, And to Sarah *who* bore you; For I called him alone, And blessed him and increased him."

"Olive trees can live for hundreds of years, but as they age, they become less and less productive, and in order to restore productivity, branches from younger trees are grafted to old ones. When a branch ceased to produce olives, a younger one was grafted into its place." [John MacArthur New Testament Commentary, Romans 9-16, p. 114]

(**Matthew 21:43; Romans 4:11; Galatians 3:6-9, 13-14**)

**Jeremiah 11:16-17** The LORD called your name, Green Olive Tree, Lovely *and* of Good Fruit.

With the noise of a great tumult He has kindled fire on it, And its branches are broken. **17** "For the LORD of hosts, who planted you, has pronounced doom against you for the evil of the house of Israel and of the house of Judah, which they have done against themselves to provoke Me to anger in offering incense to Baal."

“It is tragic and lamentable that, throughout much of church history, Jewish converts to Christ have often been subjected to attitudes of Gentile superiority and been shamed or reluctantly accepted into Christian fellowship.” [Ibid. p. 116]

“In other words, the breaking off and grafting in were based on belief, not on any inherent racial or national inferiority or superiority. The issue is not worthiness and it is not racial, ethnic, social, intellectual, or even moral.”

“If God cut off an apostate Israel because of her unbelief, how much more surely will He cut off an apostate church or Christian because of unbelief.” [Ibid., 116-117]

Pergamum - **Revelation 2:15-16** "Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. **16** `Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Laodicea - **Revelation 3:16** "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

### III. The praise as it relates to Israel's rejection. Vv.22-24

Severity translates apotomia, which has the root meaning of cutting right off, or cutting quickly, and corresponds to the verb ekkopto (cut off), with which this verb ends. And in this context, pipto (fell) means to fall down so as to be completely ruined. The idea is that people fall from spiritual opportunity to judgment due to unbelief.

Those who have identified with the saving gospel must continue in it, or they too will be judged severely like those in the past who were near the truth and blessing and fell short due to unbelief.

**1 Corinthians 10:12** Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.

The destiny of Israel can and will be reversed. The nations return to the Lord not only is possible but is guaranteed. In order, to be true to His own promises and decrees, His chosen people cannot continue forever in unbelief. Vv.26-27

(**Zechariah 3:1-10; 4:1-3, 7-10, 11-14; Revelation 11:1-4, 8, 13, 15**)

**Isaiah 59:20-21** "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. **21** "As for Me," says the LORD, "this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."