

## Romans 11:11~15

In the final week of Jesus' life here on earth, as He came to the Mount of Olives adjacent to the city of Jerusalem, upon seeing the city which represented "*His People*," he says these words...

(Mt. 23) <sup>37</sup> *O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kill the prophets, and stone them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!* <sup>38</sup> *Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.* <sup>39</sup> *For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.*

<sup>38</sup> *Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.* These prophetic words, spoken from the lips of Messiah, spoke of how "*God's Glory*" would depart from Israel, leaving them to themselves. Upon the crucifixion of Christ, God's presence would depart from Israel, leaving the nation as wasted, desert barren land. That's a far cry from the description of the land they had entered some 1400 years earlier with Joshua. There the land was described as a land "*flowing with milk and honey.*" A land blessed of God, prepared for His people, a place of "*Blessing.*" But now, it would be a "*Barren Land.*"

**Desolate**...*lonesome, a wasted, desert, solitary place, (barren dry land).*

One of the words used to define "*desolate*" was *wilderness*. Which is very interesting if you think about it, Israel wandered in the wilderness for 40 years because of "unbelief." Then finally, after 40 years of wandering out there in the barren land, they entered into Canaan, the land flowing with "*milk and honey.*" But now, upon the rejection of Christ, Israel would return to the wilderness, the place of desolation.

"*Milk and Honey*" symbolized the riches of God's Blessings, while the "*Desolate*" described just the opposite. The absence of God would mean the absence of His blessings. There's an entire message in that one statement. God longed to bless Israel, God longed to protect and provide for them, being the supplier of all their needs...but they would not have it. They insisted on having their own way, which God finally gives over to them. God will not always strive with a man, He will finally come to the point that He gives the man exactly what he wants...**left alone.** A life without God...

(Luke 19) Luke reveals more of what Jesus said while standing on Mt. Olivet. <sup>41</sup> *And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,* <sup>42</sup> *Saying, If thou had known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.* <sup>43</sup> *For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side,* <sup>44</sup> *And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knew not the time of thy visitation.*

**Israel is going down**...Jesus prophecies of the "*fall of Israel*" at the hands of its enemies, the Romans. Which found its fulfillment roughly 40 years later in 70 A.D, just as Jesus said it would be. Jerusalem was attacked, and the Temple, which represented the "*Heart of Israel*," was destroyed, there was literally not "*One Stone*" left upon another. The destruction of the temple marked the end of the organized worship of God. If Israel didn't want anything to do with God (Jesus), then God saw to it that their "*religious system*" was torn down, leaving them to themselves.

As a result of Israel's rejection of Christ...*Israel has FALLEN*... God's glory has departed from the nation, leaving them all alone, in a barren, desert land as it were. Which brings up the question that Paul asks here in Romans 11:11...

<sup>11</sup> *I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall?*

The word "**fall**" here refers to a *complete and irrevocable fall.*" It speaks of "*ruin.*" It speaks of a city that has been completely destroyed, and left in ruins.

**Q:** Does this mean the “*end*” for Israel?  
Having “*Rejected Christ*,” has God “*Rejected them*?”

Knowing what Israel has done, one might think so, but *that is certainly not the case!* Knowing that the nation not only rejected “*Gods son*,” but also “*Crucified Him*,” you would naturally think, that they had gone to far, that God would be done with them! You would think, that would be the final straw. Knowing how good God had been to the nation Israel, how He had delivered them from bondage to the Egyptians, given them a land filled with goodness. He blessed the fruit of the ground and the work of their hands. God watched over, protected and provided for Israel like a loving parent does His children. God was nothing but good to Israel...and how to they repay Him? By choosing to live in and love this old dark, sin filled world over Him. Their heart was given to this world, and the sinful desires of the flesh. In spite of how good God had been to Israel, they still chose to live for this world and the things of this world. So much so, that when God himself, came into the world in efforts to bring them back to Himself, they not only rejected His offer, but rejected Him, ultimately nailing Him to a tree!

<sup>11</sup>*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall?*

(Vs 11b) Look how Paul answers that question... **GOD FORBID... Absolutely not!** There’s nothing further from the truth! There’s not the slightest chance of that! God loves Israel too much!

Israel may have “*stumbled*,” but they will never “*Fall!*”  
They may be “*down*,” but they are not “*out!*”

This section reveals to us the “*depths of God’s love*” to a degree that is hard, (*if not impossible*) to fathom. I don’t know about you...but if I were “*God*,” it wouldn’t take me long to think about what I would do with them! If that were my son they did that too...(well lets just say, *it’s a good thing that I’m not God!*)

Rather than being “*Done with Israel*,” rather than “*washing His hands of them*,” God’s departure from Israel is yet another ploy in efforts to reach them. Even though Israel “*rejected God*,” God would not “*reject Israel*.” By no means, had Israel “*gone to far!*” Looking at it from a “*human perspective*,” one might think they had gone to far, but they hadn’t. Paul reveals to us here, that God’s removal of “*His presence*” from Israel was **not** an “*act of condemnation*” upon Israel for what they had done to His Son...but rather was part of His plan, one last final attempt to reach the people he so loved.

<sup>11</sup>*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: **but rather** through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for **to provoke them to jealousy.***

Paul points out, that “*we Gentiles*” were included in “*God’s plan of salvation*,” **for the purpose** of the “*Salvation of Israel*.”

As a result of Israel’s rejection of Christ...God removed “*His glory*” from the nation, leaving them alone. He “*Departed from Israel*,” and now could be “*found among the Gentiles*.” God did this, not in final judgment, not in condemnation, *but in love*... His hope is that Israel would see God’s presence, God’s blessings among the *Gentiles* and become jealous.

**T:** Israel’s rejection of Christ resulted in the “*Salvation of the Gentiles*.” And now, God’s hope is, by seeing Gods blessings on the Gentiles, would result in the “*Salvation of Israel*.”

<sup>11</sup>*I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: **but rather** through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentile...for **to provoke them to jealousy.***

(11b)...*for to provoke them to jealousy*...

...to be hot (*boil*, of liquids; or *glow*, of solids), (move with) envy, *heat*.

...in a favorable sense, it means to *ardor*... to cause to *covet*, to cause to *envy*...

...in an unfavorable one, it means to *despise*, ...to *excite to rivalry*: (as of a jealous husband...)

God's plan is, by Israel seeing God with another nation that it would "*stir up*" a love for Him! That by seeing God among the Gentiles, Israel would realize their mistake, and become jealous, filled with envy, longing to have what they have.

Understanding this "*Jealously*" helps you better understand why Christians suffer persecution so badly at the hands of the Jews. The disciples and apostles of Christ all suffered at the hands of their fellow countrymen. Though they'd never admit it, their HATRED of Christians stems from Jealously.

Paul declares that...what seemed to be the certain "end" of Israel, has turned into just the "beginning." God has used "*Israel's Rejection*" to "*Reconcile*" the whole world. God has used the "*Rebellious hearts*" of His people, to bring about the "*Salvation of the world!*" As a result of Israel's rejection of the gospel, the nation was set aside and the gospel went out to the Gentiles. In short, the fall of the Jews has meant riches for the world. Israel's loss has become the Gentiles gain. And in verse 12, Paul says when you consider all that, an amazing truth comes to light!

<sup>12</sup>*Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?*

Paul's argument is that of the *lesser to the greater*...

Knowing that, Israel's rejection is all part of God's plan, when you consider the "*Goodness and Blessing*" that came as a result of their fall...

Paul says...Can you imagine what will come when Israel is restored?

If salvation came to the world through the fall of Israel, what will come as a result of Israel being restored?

<sup>15</sup>*For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?*

If God's riches and blessings came to the world through Israel's fall...can you imagine what lies in store for us when Israel is restored to fullness?

... *what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead*? Here Paul declares that the "*life*" we enjoy now does not compare to the "*life*" we will enjoy when Israel receives their Messiah. The life we are enjoying now is compared to "*death*" when contrasted to the life we will enjoy then!

***You ain't seen nothing yet***...When God's plan comes to completion, when the last Gentile is saved, Christ will come back, and all of Israel will be saved! When Christ comes back, Israel will finally receive their Messiah. Christ will set up His Earthly reign, as "*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*."

Read (Vs 13) But until then... We as Christians must continue to boast of our salvation in Christ Jesus, in hopes that the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles would become Jealous, resulting in salvation. We must live our lives in submission to Jesus Christ as Lord, walking in His goodness and blessings, so that those who are in darkness might behold the marvelous light of God's love, which is in Christ!