

# ISRAEL

## 2. God's Purpose for Israel (2)



### Introduction

In our previous study we saw briefly how Israel came into existence and what God's purposes for Israel are. It was God's desire that Israel be a light to the nations. Although Israel failed again and again, it has been fulfilled through the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter wrote, "There is salvation in no other name under Heaven." Multitudes have discovered Jesus as the light of the world and received salvation through him. Does this mean God's purposes for the Jewish nation are over? For centuries the church taught that they were. However this is not what the Word of God says.

### 1. Has God rejected Israel?      Romans 11:1-24

- ✧ What two arguments does Paul give to prove that God still has a purpose for Israel? Romans 11:1-6, Romans 11:28-29
- ✧ Why has God allowed this 'blindness' to come upon the Jewish people? Romans 11:8, 11, 15, 25
- ✧ What words and phrases in these verses show this hardening is only temporary? Romans 11:11, 23, 25

God allowed the Jewish people to harden their hearts so Gentiles would have the opportunity to come to know Christ. However God always had a remnant who believed, and he said a time would come when Israel would be saved. A third argument given by Paul shows that God still has a purpose for Israel. This is seen in the illustration of the olive tree.)

### 2. What does the olive tree teach us?      Romans 11:16-24

- ✧ What does each part of the olive tree symbolize do you think? Look at the root, the wild branches, the natural branches that are cut off and the natural branches that are grafted on.
- ✧ What is our relationship with the root or the Patriarchs? Romans 11:17-18
- ✧ How does this picture show us that God can and will save Israel? Romans 11:23-24
- ✧ What are God's purposes for Israel in the last days according to Romans 11:25-32?

### 3. How can we be part of God's plan?

- ✧ How can we be part of God's purposes according to Romans 11:11, 14? What can we do?
- ✧ What blessing will the salvation of Israel bring to the world? Romans 11:12, 15

## **Conclusion**

The Bible tells us that after the time given by God for the Gentiles to respond to the gospel, there will be another time for the Jewish people. This is part of God's marvellous plan of redemption for mankind, and we see it happening now.

As we see Jewish people coming to Jesus, it will usher in great blessing for mankind. The glory of God will be manifest among his people and it will prepare the way for the return of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead. Hallelujah! First, however, we are to love the Jewish people and pray for their salvation.