

Romans 11:25-36—Blindness In Part Has Happened To Israel Until The Fullness Of The Gentiles Has Come In

Memory Verse

Romans 12:1-2 NKJV

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Revision and Introduction

Last time we learned that God has not cast away or completely rejected His people, the nation of Israel—"I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not!" (Romans 11:1a NKJV). So how did Paul reconcile this statement that God has not cast away or rejected His chosen people with the facts that:

- Israel had been homeless and persecuted for almost the last 2,000 years
- God has used the gentile church instead of the Jewish nation to bring the good news of the gospel to the world?

Firstly, Paul showed in Romans 11:1-10 that God's rejection of Israel is only partial: There has always been a remnant of the Jewish nation that has chosen to believe and receive Jesus as their Messiah and Saviour—Paul and the apostles were some of them. Secondly, Paul showed in Romans 11:11-36 that God's rejection of Israel is only temporary; there will come a day when Israel as a nation will be restored to fellowship with God and will walk closely with Him in a way that they never have before. Here is a preview of what we are going to study today.

Romans 11:25-27 NKJV

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "*The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;* ²⁷ *for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.*"

This week, we will complete our exposition of Romans chapter 11, and then take a very brief survey through the Scriptures to show God's plan for the nation of Israel. The focus will be on the end times when God will not only physically restore Israel as a nation (as we see Him doing right now—prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes), but also the future spiritual restoration of Israel as a nation (which will happen at the end of the 7 year tribulation when Jesus comes back to rule the earth for a 1,000 years).

Outline for Romans 11:25-36

1. God's promise that all Israel will be saved (vs 25-27)
2. God never changes His mind (vs 28-29)
3. Where the Gentile Christians came from and where God has promised to take the Jewish people (vs 30-32)
4. Praise to God for His wise and merciful plan of salvation (vs 33-36)
5. The timing of Israel's spiritual restoration (survey)
6. Summary and conclusion

Romans 11:1-5, 11–36 NKJV

Israel's rejection not total

I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, ³ “*Lord, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life*”? ⁴ But what does the divine response say to him? “*I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.*” ⁵ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Israel's Rejection Not Final

¹¹ I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. ¹² Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

¹³ For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, ¹⁴ if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead?

¹⁶ For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, ¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.

¹⁹ You will say then, “Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.” ²⁰ Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. ²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²² Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

²⁵ For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

²⁸ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. ³⁰ For as you [the gentiles] were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their [Israel's] disobedience, ³¹ even so these [Israel] also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you [the gentiles] they [the Israelites] also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counsellor?”

³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?”

³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

1. God's promise that all Israel will be saved

Romans 11:25-27 NKJV

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness [hardness] in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. ²⁶ And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.”

v 25 That blindness [hardness] in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in: Romans 11:25-27 are a summary of verses 1-24 where Paul proved from Scripture that God's rejection of Israel was both partial (**in part**) and temporary (**until**).

“One day the Jews will realize their blindness and folly. They'll accept Jesus Christ, and the glorious national restoration of these people will bring in the Kingdom Age.” (Smith)

v 25 **This mystery**: A mystery in Scripture is a part of God's plan that is only revealed in the New Testament; it was a hidden truth, something that God didn't reveal until after Jesus died and rose again.

Romans 16:25b-26a AMP

...according to the revelation (the unveiling) of the **mystery** of the plan of redemption which was kept in silence and secret for long ages, ²⁶ But is now disclosed and through the prophetic Scriptures...

Ephesians 3:3-5 NLT

As I briefly wrote earlier, God himself revealed his mysterious plan to me. ⁴ As you read what I have written, you will understand my insight into this plan regarding Christ. ⁵ God did not reveal it to previous generations, but now by his Spirit he has revealed it to his holy apostles and prophets.

“In English a ‘mystery’ is something dark, obscure, secret, puzzling. What is ‘mysterious’ is inexplicable, even incomprehensible. The Greek word *mysterion* is different, however. Although still a ‘secret’, it is no longer closely guarded but open ... More simply, *mysterion* is a truth hitherto hidden from human knowledge or understanding but now disclosed by the revelation of God.” (Stott)

Other examples of “mysteries” or “hidden truths” in the New Testament are the Rapture of the Church (see 1 Corinthians 15:51), that the division or wall of separation between Jews and Gentiles would be abolished as they are united in Christ (see Ephesians 2:14-18, 3:6), and the fact that Christ would make His home in us as a result of the New Covenant (see Colossians 1:26-27). However, in Romans 11, the mystery referred to is God temporarily ceasing to use the nation of Israel as His witness to the world, and instead temporarily using the gentile church. We saw last time how Paul described this great blessing for the gentiles using the illustration of the olive tree (a type of Israel).

Romans 11:17-25 NLT

But some of these branches from Abraham's tree—[the majority] of the people of Israel—have been broken off. And you Gentiles, who were branches from a wild olive tree, have been grafted in. So now you also receive the blessing God has promised Abraham and his children, sharing in the rich nourishment from the root of God's special olive tree. ¹⁸ But you must not brag about being grafted in to replace the branches that were broken off. You are just a branch, not the root.

²³ And if the people of Israel turn from their unbelief, they will be grafted in again, for God has the power to graft them back into the tree. ²⁴ You [the gentiles], by nature, were a branch cut from a wild olive tree. So if God was willing to do something contrary to nature by grafting you into his cultivated tree, he will be far more eager to graft the original branches [Israel] back into the tree where they belong.

²⁵ *I want you to understand **this mystery**, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. [The majority] of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ.*

v 25 **For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness [hardness] in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in:** Again, “**this mystery**” refers to God temporarily setting aside the majority of the Jews so the fullness of the gentiles can come in. Until then, God will work through the gentiles (the gentile church) instead of the nation of Israel, so that Israel would be made jealous in a good way (see Romans 11:11).

Application: A warning to be humble and not twist God’s Word to suit our own ideas and ideologies

v 25 **For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion [so that you will not feel proud about yourselves (NLT), lest you be self-opinionated (wise in your own conceits) (AMP)]:** These same words (wise in your own opinion) are also found in Romans 12:16b, and are translated in the NLT as, “...and don’t think you know it all!” This captures the attitude behind many people when they think that they can make the Bible say what they want it to say, twisting it to fit their own experiences, expectations and desires. There are many so-called Bible scholars who may be very smart or intellectual, but don’t have much respect for the truth of the Word of God. Some deny creation, some deny the resurrection, some deny that God made man as male and female, some deny the God ordained roles of men and women in the church and family, and as it is written here, some deny that God will be faithful to keep His promises to Israel.

Paul specifically warns us that we need to understand the two different plans that God has for the gentile church, and with His chosen nation Israel. Why? Because if we don’t, then we will at best treat Israel with indifference, and at worst be openly hostile towards them, and both of these incorrect beliefs will put us under God’s curse—“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you [treats you with indifference]; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3).

It is not wise to curse or treat with indifference (have a lack of concern or sympathy), those whom God has blessed because we make ourselves God’s enemies. Those who believe the replacement theology lie, which teaches that the church has replaced Israel forever, and that the promises God gave Israel are now for the church, are, according to Genesis 12:3, under God’s curse. You might wonder, “Well, what does it matter what I believe about Israel?” But it does matter to God. Treating Israel with a lack of concern or sympathy (indifference) is like poking God in the eye; if God loves them and thinks that they are important, then we also should love them and consider them important for the sake of the Gospel.

Zechariah 2:8 NKJV

For thus says the Lord of hosts: “He sent Me after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he who touches you [Israel] touches the apple of His eye.”

The fullness of the gentiles

v 25 **Until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in:** This refers to when the church is removed at the time of the Rapture. During the seven year Tribulation, God will once again use the nation of Israel. It will start with the 144,000 Jewish evangelists getting saved and sealed at the start of the seven year Tribulation (the firstfruits), and then the remainder of the unbelieving majority at the end of the seven years (the main harvest).

All Israel will be saved

v 26-27 **And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; ²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins”:** God can't make it any more clear: The church is not the nation of Israel! Concerning the church, God has already taken away our sins because we are already “in Christ”, we have believed and received the gospel. However, for the majority of the nation of Israel, whose rejection of the gospel continues to this very day, their salvation from sin is still future.

“This simple passage refutes those who insist that God is forever done with Israel as a people and that the Church is the New Israel and inherits every promise ever made to national and ethnic Israel of the Old Testament.” (David Guzik)

v 26 **All Israel will be saved:** This does not mean that every single Jewish person will be saved—“For it is not everybody who is a [physical] descendant of Jacob (Israel) who belongs to [the true] Israel” (Romans 9:6b AMP). In the context of the passage and other scriptures, it is referring to a national turning to God, when the majority (not just a remnant) of the Jews will look to Jesus and accept Him as their messiah when He comes back at the end of the Tribulation.

“Even as the apostasy of Israel did not extend to every last Jew, so the salvation of Israel will not extend to every last Jew; Paul is speaking of the “mass” of Jews when he says **all Israel.**” (David Guzik)

“*All Israel* is a recurring expression in Jewish literature, where it need not mean ‘every Jew without a single exception’, but ‘Israel as a whole.’” (Bruce)

When will this happen? Only when Israel looks up and sees Jesus coming on the clouds of glory with His saints behind Him at the end of the 7 year Tribulation. Jesus can't come back until the Jewish nation is ready to accept Him. We will read these scriptures soon.

2. God never changes His mind

Romans 11:28-29 NKJV

Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. ²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

v 28 **Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake:** The Jews hated Jesus and ended up killing Him. They then went to much trouble to try to kill Christians and hinder the spread of the gospel of Christ. So, from a physical point of view, the Jews seemed to be enemies of the church.

v 28 **But concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers:** God loves the nation of Israel and will continue to love them because of the *unconditional* promises that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Just as a Christian still remains a child of God when they backslide and cause God much grief, so to the nation of Israel remains God's chosen people despite their backsliding and rebellious ways. Why? We see the answer in verse 29.

v 29 **The gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable (NKJV)**

v 29 **For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn (NLT)**

v 29 **For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]**

This verse should make us all sigh with relief: Just imagine how vulnerable, scared and fragile we would be if it were true that at any moment God might revoke or change His mind concerning His promises? For example, I would have to rephrase Philippians 1:6 from, "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ", to, "*We can't be sure, but He who has begun a good work in you might complete it until the day of Jesus Christ*". I would be thinking, "*What if I stumble and fail in my walk with God, will God reject me just like I think He rejected the nation of Israel when they stumbled and failed?*" *Will God cast me away if I am unfaithful, just like the replacement theology lie teaches concerning the nation of Israel.*"

Concerning Israel's national salvation, and the salvation of every individual believer, both depend up on God being faithful to keep the *unconditional* promises that He made concerning their salvation. The bottom line is this: Either God keeps His promises or He doesn't—either God is faithful or He is not faithful—either God lies or He doesn't lie. Those who believe the replacement theology lie that God has broken His promise to the nation of Israel and has permanently replaced them with the church, are very literally calling God a liar, because they teach that God has broken the many unconditional promises that He made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning the physical nation of Israel .

"This is another reason why God hasn't given up on national and ethnic Israel. This principle, stated by Paul, comforts us far beyond its direct relevance to Israel. It means that God will not give up on us and He leaves the path open to restoration." (David Guzik)

Consider the following verses:

Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Jeremiah 31:31-37 NLT

"The day is coming," says the Lord, "when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. ³² This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord.

³³ "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴ And they will not need to teach their neighbours, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."

³⁵ It is the Lord who provides the sun to light the day and the moon and stars to light the night, and who stirs the sea into roaring waves. His name is the Lord of Heaven's Armies, and this is what He says:

³⁶ "I am as likely to reject my people Israel as I am to abolish the laws of nature!"

³⁷ This is what the Lord says: "Just as the heavens cannot be measured and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored, so I will not consider casting them away for the evil they have done. I, the Lord, have spoken!"

Application: A cause for rejoicing—the grace of God

“If the nation was not chosen because of its goodness, can it be rejected because of its sin? “Election” means grace, not merit. The Jewish people are “enemies” to the believing Gentiles because of their hostile attitude toward the Gospel. But to God, the Jewish people are “beloved for the fathers’ sakes.” God will not break His covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.” (Warren W. Wiersbe)

“I am the Lord, I change not” (Mal. 3:6). “God is not a man that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent” (Num. 23:19). God’s gifts to Israel, and God’s calling of Israel, cannot be taken back or changed, or God would cease to be true to His own perfect nature. The fact that Israel may not enjoy her gifts, or live up to her privileges as an elect nation, does not affect this fact one bit. God will be consistent with Himself and true to His Word no matter what men may do. “Shall their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect?” (Rom. 3:3, literal translation)” (Warren W. Wiersbe)

2 Timothy 2:13 AMP

If we [believers] are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself.

Understanding God’s plan for the nation of Israel should make us praise God for His wonderful and unconditional patience and lovingkindness that He continually lavishes on us. He will never give up on us, He will never be unfaithful to us. We can constantly trust that, as believers, no matter how often or how badly we sin, God will always forgive us just like He forgives the nation of Israel (however, we must remember that there are still the practical consequences for forgiven sin which will cause much suffering for us in this life, just like the children of Israel are still experiencing—we should learn from their bad example to not rebel against God).

3. Where the Gentile Christians came from and where God has promised to take the Jewish people

Romans 11:30-32 NKJV

For as you [gentiles] were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their [Israel’s] disobedience, ³¹ even so these [Israel] also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

v 30 **You [gentiles] were once disobedient to God:** It’s important to remember that God didn’t choose to create the gentile church because the gentiles (non-Jewish people) were better than the Israelites. Just the opposite, the gentiles were deep into idol worship and many other pagan practices—in reality the gentiles were still much worse than the Jews—**You [gentiles] were once disobedient to God.** So why was God so harsh in His disciplining of the Jews and partially and temporarily rejecting them? There are two reasons:

1. *With great privilege comes great responsibility and accountability—the Jews were given much and so much was expected of them.*
2. God was simply keeping His promises—He only did to the nation of Israel (the Jews) exactly what He said He would do if they disobeyed Him (see Deuteronomy 28:15-68)

v 30 **Yet [the gentiles] have now obtained mercy through their [Israel’s] disobedience:** This is an example of how God can use evil for good. The nation of Israel’s rebellion against God created an opportunity for God to show mercy and bless the underserving and disobedient gentiles. If the nation of Israel refused to act as God’s ambassadors to the world, then God would create the gentile church to complete the task of being His ambassadors to the world (see 2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

v 31 **Even so these [Israel] also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy:** Here again is the promise that God is going to show disobedient Israel mercy, just like He showed mercy to the gentiles. If God showed mercy to the undeserving gentiles by making the gentile church His ambassadors, then it makes sense that He would do the same for His chosen people, the nation of Israel: Undeserving and disobedient Israel will be restored to being God's ambassadors at the end of the Tribulation when Jesus comes back, and they will then serve God faithfully for the entire 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ on earth.

v 32 **For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all:** We come back to the understanding that no-one deserves to be saved, we are all, Jew and gentile, sinners who are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, through Christ alone, through Scripture alone, and to the glory of God alone (see Ephesians 2:8-9). Here we see God's loving and compassionate nature on display for all to see, an undeniable demonstration of how He desires all men to be saved (see 2 Peter 3:9). This leads Paul to break out in praise to God in the final verses of chapter 11.

4. Praise to God for His wise and merciful plan of salvation

Romans 11:33-36 NKJV

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counsellor?”

³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?”

³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

v 33 **Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!:** These verses finish both the section of Romans that deals with Israel (chapters 9-11), as well as the entire first section of the book which deals with “*what God has done for us*”, as far as providing salvation for us (chapters 1-11). Chapters 9-11 are like a ‘big picture’ of exactly how God is going to reach the world with the gospel that was so beautifully described in chapters 1-8, and is itself an example of the grace of God described in chapters 1-8. Romans chapters 12-16 are the second section of the letter to the Roman church and they describe how we should respond to God considering all that He has already done for us.

So how should we respond after learning about the gospel of grace, including all that God has done for us, and also just how much God loves us? With praise! Paul goes from theology to doxology.

“Who would have planned the whole scenario with Israel, the Gentiles, and the Church as God has planned it? Yet, we can see the great wisdom and compassion in His plan.” (David Guzik)

v 34 **For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counsellor?:** Paul rejoices and praises God for His wisdom and sovereignty.

v 35 **Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?** As we have learned, everything we receive from God is a gift, it's all grace. God will always out-give us—He freely gives us so much more that we can ever hope to give Him. Therefore, God will never owe anyone anything.

v 36 **Of Him and through Him and to Him are all things:** God's plan of salvation is all God's idea (**of Him**), it's all God's initiative. God's plan of salvation is only possible **through Him**—it's humanly impossible for mankind to carry out God's plan—we could never free ourselves from the bondage of sin and shame—Jesus did this when He died in our place on the cross. God's plan of salvation brings glory to God alone, it is **to Him**—our salvation and adoption into God's family is “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (Ephesians 1:6a NKJV).

v 36 **To whom be glory forever:** As we come to understand just a little more of how great God is, we will praise Him more, and be in deeper reverence and awe of who He is. When we get to heaven, praising God will come naturally “for we shall see Him as He is” (see 1 John 3:2 and Revelation 5:8-14).

5. The timing of Israel's spiritual restoration

When will the nation of Israel accept Jesus as their Saviour and Messiah? Only when Israel looks up and sees Jesus coming on the clouds of glory with His saints behind Him. Jesus can't come back until the Jewish nation is ready to accept Him.

Matthew 23:37-39 AMP

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, murdering the prophets and stoning those who are sent to you! How often would I have gathered your children together as a mother fowl gathers her brood under her wings, and you refused!

³⁸ Behold, your house is forsaken and desolate (abandoned and left destitute of God's help). [1 Kings 9:7; Jeremiah 22:5.]

³⁹ For I declare to you, you will not see Me again until you say, Blessed (magnified in worship, adored, and exalted) is He Who comes in the name of the Lord! [Ps. 118:26.]

Now the question is, when will Israel look to Jesus and accept Him as their Saviour and Messiah. As the following Scriptures indicate, there will be an intense period of persecution followed by the physical return of Jesus at the end of the 7 year Tribulation. This is why the Tribulation is also known as “Jacob's trouble”—*Alas! For that day is great, so that none is like it; and it is the time of Jacob's trouble, but he shall be saved out of it* (Jeremiah 30:7 NKJV).

Zechariah 13:8-9 NKJV

And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the Lord, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, but one-third shall be left in it: ⁹ I will bring the one-third through the fire, will refine them as silver is refined, and test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, and I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; and each one will say, ‘The Lord is my God.’”

Zechariah 12:9-10 NKJV

“It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem [the battle of Armageddon that happens at the end of the 7 year Tribulation].

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.

There are many other passages that describe God's future dealings with Israel during both the 7 year Tribulation and then the 1,000 year Millennium, but today we will just look at 1 more.

Isaiah 59:20-60:22 NKJV (selected verses)

“The Redeemer will come to Zion [Christ’s Second Coming, see Zechariah 14:1-5], 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.”

^{60:1} Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you [Israel].

² For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people [the nations]; but the Lord will arise over you [Israel], and His glory will be seen upon you. ³ The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

⁴ “Lift up your eyes all around, and see: they [the Israelites] all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be nursed at your side. ⁵

Then you shall see and become radiant, and your heart shall swell with joy; because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the Gentiles shall come to you. ⁶

The multitude of camels shall cover your land, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come; they shall bring gold and incense, and they shall proclaim the praises of the Lord. ⁷ All the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered together to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall minister to you; they shall ascend with acceptance on My altar, and I will glorify the house of My glory.

¹⁰ “The sons of foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall minister to you; for in My wrath I struck you, but in My favour I have had mercy on you. ¹¹ Therefore your gates shall be open continually; they shall not be shut day or night, that men may bring to you the wealth of the Gentiles, and their kings in procession. ¹² For the nation and kingdom which will not serve you shall perish, and those nations shall be utterly ruined.

¹³ “The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, the cypress, the pine, and the box tree together, to beautify the place of My sanctuary; and I will make the place of My feet glorious.

¹⁴ Also the sons of those who afflicted you shall come bowing to you, and all those who despised you shall fall prostrate at the soles of your feet; and they shall call you The City of the Lord, Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

¹⁵ “Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, so that no one went through you, I will make you an eternal excellence, a joy of many generations. ¹⁶ You shall drink the milk of the Gentiles, and milk the breast of kings; you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and your Redeemer, the Mighty One of Jacob.

¹⁸ Violence shall no longer be heard in your land, neither wasting nor destruction within your borders; but you shall call your walls Salvation, and your gates Praise.

¹⁹ “The sun shall no longer be your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give light to you; but the Lord will be to you an everlasting light, and your God your glory. ²⁰ Your sun shall no longer go down, nor shall your moon withdraw itself; for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and the days of your mourning shall be ended.

²¹ Also your people shall all be righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of My planting, the work of My hands, that I may be glorified. ²² A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in its time.”

6. Summary and conclusion

“What has happened to Israel is all a part of God’s plan, and He knows what He is doing. The blinding (or hardening, Rom. 11:7) of Israel as a nation is neither total nor final: it is partial and temporary. How long will it last? “Until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in” (Rom. 11:25). There is a “fullness” for Israel (Rom. 11:12) and for the Gentiles. Today, God in His grace is visiting the Gentiles and taking out a people for His name (Acts 15:12–14). Individual Jews are being saved, of course; but this present age is primarily a time when God is visiting the Gentiles and building His church. When this present age has run its course, and the fullness of the Gentiles has come in, then God will once more deal with the nation of Israel.” (Warren W. Wiersbe)