

## When He Shall Come Romans 11:25-27

### Introduction

We are in the midst of a study of Chapter 11 of Romans which deals with the future of Israel in God's program

Douglas Wilson has recently written a small book titled: 'Boast Not Against the Branches' [2025]

Douglas Wilson: 'With the recent outbreak of antisemitism, one of the most obvious features of it has been a steadfast refusal to heed the Apostle's warnings in this chapter [Rom. 11]. No fear to speak of, and a lot of high-mindedness.'

In Romans 11 – the Apostle Paul has raised the topic of Jewish / Gentile relations in the days to come

Romans 11:18 - 'Do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.'

In our day – we have seen a growth in the outbreak of anti-Semitic acts in the United States as well as globally

Oliver J. Melnick [2019]: 'The new anti-Semitism is not so new. Much of it is historical anti-Semitism repackaged to appeal to a new audience . . . The new anti-Semitism is not going away, and it is predicted to intensify as we near the last chapter of God's program for the ages.'

In the U.S. – anti-Semitic incidents surged 400% in the months following October 7<sup>th</sup> 2023  
Significant increases have been seen across the globe in places like Australia / Italy

In May 2025 – a gunman opened fire outside the Jewish museum in Washington D.C.

Two young victims were killed – who worked for the embassy of Israel

Yaron Lischinsky – a German Israeli  
Sarah Milgrim – an American Jew

Elias Rodriguez – a 30 year old from Chicago – shouted to police that he did it – and that he did it in support of Gaza – i.e. he killed them because they were Jews

What does the future hold for the Jews?

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century – Paul noted the potential for conflict between Jews and Gentiles – because the Jews rejected the gospel / rejected Jesus Christ – even had Him nailed to a cross - - - while – Gentiles embraced the Christian faith

Paul gave us the image of an Olive Tree – where natural branches were broken off for their unbelief - - - and wild branches were grafted in

The natural branches were the Jews  
The wild branches were the Gentiles

Paul said – ‘don’t be arrogant against the natural branches – because God is able to graft them in again.’

Now – Paul tells us that is exactly what will happen

Douglas Wilson reminds us of some voices from church history who understood the implications of Romans 11

Thomas Boston: 'There is a day coming when there shall be a national conversion of the Jews or Israelites. The now blinded and rejected Jews shall at length be converted into the faith of Christ, and join themselves to the Christian Church.'

Charles Spurgeon: 'The day shall yet come when the Jews, who were the first Apostles to the Gentiles, the first missionaries to us who were afar off, shall be gathered in again . . . matchless benefits to the world are bound up with the restoration of Israel; their gathering in shall be as life from the dead.'

This morning we will take a look at this amazing prophecy of Paul

## I. The Fullness of the Gentiles - v. 25

Paul has warned the Gentiles against boasting or taking an attitude of superiority towards the Jews since – the Gentiles have entered into the church and the Jews – as a whole – are outside of it

Paul believes one of the remedies against anti-semitism is to know God’s program for the Jews

While Jews are currently in a period of partial hardening and unbelief – that will not always be the case

It is temporary – until the fullness of the Gentiles are brought in

This passage takes us into one of the Apostle Paul’s great prophecies concerning the end times and the return of Christ

Jesus Himself made predictions about the end times - - - He said these words to Jerusalem shortly before the crucifixion

**Matt. 23:37-39 - 'O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling. Behold, your house is being left to you desolate! For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the Name of the Lord."**

This period of spiritual desolation / partial hardening has taken place since Calvary

We saw pivotal events take place in the book of Acts where the gospel begins to go out to the Gentiles

**Acts 18:5-6 - 'But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Christ. And when they resisted and blasphemed, he shook out his garments and said to them, "Your blood be upon your own heads! I am clean. From now on I shall go to the Gentiles."**

One thing is clear from such events - - - The Jew needs the gospel – just like everybody else – He is a branch cut off from the tree

This position is not without controversy

John Piper once had an interesting exchange with his local newspaper

The *Minneapolis Star Tribune* printed an editorial a while back that said: 'Christians must abandon the idea that the Jews must be converted. That idea . . . is one of the greatest scandals in history.'

Piper responded in a letter to the paper arguing that 'only he who has the Son has the life' [I John 5:12]. It is not a scandal – rather it is love that moves Christians to urge Jews to receive Jesus as their Messiah.

This is basic mission's theology

**Mark 16:15 - 'And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."**

Piper's letter then brought a response from the pastors of 4 large downtown churches [liberal] which said, 'Unfortunately 'arrogant' is the right word to describe any attempts at

proselytizing – in this case the effort of Christians to ‘win over’ their Jewish brothers and sisters. Thoughtful Christians will disassociate themselves from any such effort.’

Christian – your job is to leave Jews alone!

Eleazar Berkovitz [a 20<sup>th</sup> century Jewish Rabbi] said that the Christian New Testament has been the most dangerous antisemitic tract in history

Mel Gibson purposely left out a scene in the Passion of the Christ where – in Matthew’s Gospel – the Jews tell Pilate to crucify Christ and to let His blood be on them and their children!

Gibson thought the statement – while accurate – might encourage antisemitism

John Stott: 'It is understandable that since the holocaust Jews have demanded an end to Christian missionary activity among them, and that many Christians have felt embarrassed about continuing in it. It is even mooted that Jewish evangelism is an unacceptable form of antisemitism. So, some Christians have attempted to develop a 'two covenant theology' . . . namely that there are two different salvation tracks - the Christian track for the believing remnant and believing Gentiles, and the track for historical Israel which relies on God's covenant with them.'

John Stott: 'Romans 11 stands in clear opposition to this trend because of its insistence upon the fact that there is only one olive tree to which Jewish and Gentile believers both belong. Jewish people will be grafted in again if they do not persist in unbelief. So, faith in Jesus is essential for them.'

The reality is for modern day Jews – if they don’t believe in Christ - - - they are like Caiaphas – branches broken off of the vine

Romans 11:23 - 'And they also, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in; for God is able to graft them in again.'

Now Paul speaks of revealing a mystery

What is the mystery?

The hardening of the hearts of Israelites will not continue

Right now - - if a Jew happens to become a Christian – other Jews will no longer regard him as Jewish

This period of hardening will come to an end when the fullness of Gentiles are brought in

How does Paul know this will take place? [future events]

Henry Alford: 'I do not rest this on mere hope or probability, but have direct revelation of the Holy Spirit as to its certainty.'

Paul the Apostle: this is going to happen

God is bringing in Gentiles to the church – but the day will come when the fullness has been reached and God will turn to save Israel at the end of this age

## II. Thus All Israel Will be Saved - vv. 26-27

When does this take place?

Charles Feinberg: 'Nothing in Israel's past history can be interpreted as the fulfillment of this passage. In that coming day of Israel's national atonement, the Lord will pour upon the royal house and all who dwell in Jerusalem, then throughout the whole nation, the Spirit of grace and supplication . . . the outpouring of conviction upon them will drive them to believing prayer.'

[to call upon the Lord]

The two main prophetic books in the OT are the books of Daniel and Zechariah

Zechariah deals particularly with the return of Christ

Zechariah 12:10 - 'And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.'

Israel will express deep sorrow and a profound remorse over Christ

They will finally see that the One they have been rejecting over the centuries and whom they crucified – is in fact the Son of God who came to redeem sinners

Isaiah 53:4 - 'Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.'

Isaiah 53:5a - 'But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.' [kjv]

This mourning is associated with conviction of sin

Jesus will make Himself known to Israel at this time – ‘It’s me Jesus – who you crucified!’

Israel will finally see Jesus for who He is – after 2000 years of the church age!

John the Apostle connects this event with the return of Christ in the book of Revelation [mixing a quote from Daniel and Zechariah]

**Revelation 1:7 - 'Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. Even so. Amen'**

The Deliverer will come from Zion

That is a reference to Jesus returning – and will coincide with a national repentance of Israel

The interesting thing to prophecy buffs is the fact that this promise is linked in various passages of Scripture with a return of Jews to the land of Israel – ‘The Holy Land’

**Ezekiel 36:24-26 - "For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands, and bring you into your own land. "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.'**

So – this national conversion could not take place without first seeing a significant portion of the Jews returning to the land of Israel

Which we have seen in the 20<sup>th</sup> century – Israel became a nation once again in 1948

Israel took possession of East Jerusalem in the 6 day war – 1967 – [which is where the Wailing Wall / temple mount site]

**R.C. Sproul: 'I remember sitting on my porch in Boston in 1967, and watching on television the Jewish soldiers coming into Jerusalem, dropping their weapons and rushing to the Wailing Wall, and weeping and weeping. Immediately I telephoned one of my dear friends, a professor of Old Testament theology, who does not believe that modern day Israel has any significance whatsoever.'**

**R.C. Sproul: 'I asked him, 'What do you think now?' From 70 AD to 1967, almost 1900 years, Jerusalem has been under the domination and control of Gentiles,**

and now the Jews have recaptured the city of Jerusalem. Jesus said that Jerusalem will be trodden underfoot by the Gentiles, until the fullness of the Gentiles be fulfilled. What's the significance of that?' He replied, 'I am going to have to rethink this situation.'

We have to remember - Jesus sets the trampling of Jerusalem by the Gentiles on up to the end of the Tribulation period – it will be overrun one more time - only to be delivered by Jesus Himself

\*\*\* History is moving towards a climactic goal

There will be a final siege of Jerusalem – the nations will attempt to destroy Israel – to wipe them off the map [that is a stated goal by many of the enemies of Israel today] [that is the goal of the 'from the river to the sea' crowd]

Today it's not hard to imagine Israel as a focal point of world conflict – and hostility among the nations.

Biblical prophecy points to a day when Christ will return and deliver Israel from her enemies - - - but more importantly from her sins

For a true mass conversion of a people group to take place – there can only be one explanation – and that is the work of God by His Spirit upon the heart

MLJ: 'It is His power that is going to do this. It is not going to be the case that the Jews at a given point are going to decide to believe the gospel - they cannot do that. Nobody can ever do that. This is always the action of the Lord.'

There will be a national conversion of the Jews at the end of this age

Jesus spoke of a final trampling of the city of Jerusalem – [in the Olivet Discourse]

Luke 21:20-24 - 'But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then recognize that her desolation is at hand . . .and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.'

*The times of the Gentiles* – is the time period in which Israel is unable to live in the land in peace – uncontested and unmolested by the Gentiles

The bible does not give us a lot of reason to think that people will leave Israel alone and let them live in the land in peace!

A future desolation will take place – that coincides with the Tribulation period

Doug Bookman: 'What specific role does the seven-year Tribulation play in God's doxological purposes? Simply stated, the Tribulation is God's gracious strategy to bring an entire generation of Israel so entirely to the end of themselves that they will look upon Him whom they once pierced and cast themselves entirely upon Him for deliverance and salvation, both physical and spiritual.'

The Tribulation will prepare the remnant to look upon Jesus in faith

Israel's eyes will be opened

Essentially 1/3 of the nation will survive the Tribulation and the siege of Jerusalem

Zechariah 13:8-9 - "And it will come about in all the land," Declares the Lord, "That two parts in it will be cut off and perish; but the third will be left in it. And I will bring the third part through the fire, 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, "They are My people," and they will say, "The Lord is my God."

It is in the midst of Israel being surrounded by her enemies that God refines the remnant / they are prepared to respond to Christ –

Their very existence as a nation and people group will be threatened beyond anything they have seen to that day

Zechariah 14:2 - 'For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.'

Sounds like October 7<sup>th</sup> – but it's not - - - it is Armageddon – a final assault on Israel in which they are hopelessly outnumbered and threatened with extinction

Zechariah 14:3, 4 - 'Then the Lord will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle. And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half towards the south.'

Zechariah 14:5b - 'Then the Lord, my God, will come, and all the holy ones with Him!'

John MacArthur: 'On that day when He returns, accompanied by an angelic army, the darkest night in Israel's history will turn into its brightest day.'

Zechariah 14:9 - 'And the Lord will be king over all the earth; in that day the Lord will be the only one, and His name the only one.'

God wins - - - Israel is delivered from their enemies – but also a spiritual rebirth takes place

The natural branches are brought back into the Olive Tree

When Christ returns – where does He go?

To the Mount of Olives

The place of Jesus' departure becomes the place of His return

Renald Showers: '[the] prophetic passages indicate a future restoration of Israel to their homeland; A national conversion to righteousness. They will dwell securely in complete safety. They will no longer endure the insults of the nations. No one will make them afraid. The Messiah, the righteous branch of David, will reign over them as their king. They will recognize their true God . . . none of these things is a reality for the Jews in the present state of Israel. These conditions will not become a reality until the Messiah comes in His Second Coming to reign as king.' [There Really is a Difference, p. 74] / Ezekiel 36:22ff

Conclusion

Matthew 24:42-44 - 'therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. But be sure of this that if the head of the house had known what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. For this reason - you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not think He will.'

How are we ready for the return of Christ?

The way to be ready is to come to Jesus Christ, receive forgiveness of sins, and walk in His light.'

John 6:29 - 'Jesus said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent."

Someday Israel will do just that