Irrevocable Calling

Paul's message in Romans 11

God has a glorious plan in store for Jews and Gentiles when Messiah returns.



In Rom 11 Paul "teaches that this rejection of the Jews was neither total nor final. It was not total, inasmuch as many of the Jews of that generation believed; and it was not final, as the period approached when the great body of that nation should acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, and be reingrafted into their own olive tree"

(Romans, p. 294)

Paul's Argument in Romans 9 - 11





I. Israel's rejection is not total (11:1-10)

3 proofs that Israel's rejection is not total:

- God's electing grace
- A remnant is currently coming to Christ
- God's sovereign plan

God promises to not cast off His people permanently "The LORD will not abandon His people, nor will He forsake His inheritance" (Ps 94:14)

"The Lord will not reject forever" (Lam 3:31)

See also Jer 31:37 and 1 Sam 12:22



Israel's rejection is not total (11:1-10)
 II. Israel's rejection is not final (11:11-32)
 A. Israel's temporary rejection shifts focus to the salvation of Gentiles (11:11-24)

John Murray

Paul's phrase **life from the dead** is "the vivification that would come to the whole world from the conversion of the mass of Israel and their reception into the favour and kingdom of God"

(Romans, Vol. 2, p. 84)

Romans 11

I. Israel's rejection is not total (11:1-10)
II. Israel's rejection is not final (11:11-32)
A. Israel's temporary rejection shifts focus to the salvation of Gentiles (11:11-24)

B. Israel will be saved in the future (11:25-32)



"They were then rejected not merely as individuals, but as a community, and therefore are to be restored as a community"

"It is not final and hopeless; it is only for a time"

(Romans, p. 372-3)

Fulness of the Gentiles

Period of Israel's Partial Hardening Lk 21:24

Mt 23:39

Rom 11:12

Acts 3:1-26 (esp. 21)

2 Cor 3:14

Mic 5:3

Deut 32:20-22, 36

"All Israel"

John Murray explains that "It is of ethnic Israel Paul is speaking and Israel could not possibly include Gentiles" (p. 96). Otherwise, Paul's argument "would be reduced to absurdity" (Ibid.).

F. F. Bruce adds, "It is impossible to entertain an exegesis which understands 'Israel' here in a different sense from 'Israel' in verse 25" (Romans, p. 209).

Future Salvation of Jews

Post-Reformation

- Geneva Bible
- Westminster Larger
 Catechism
- Theodore Beza
- Martin Bucer
- Peter Martyr

Most Puritans

- John Owen
- Jonathan Edwards
- Jeremiah Burroughs
- John Flavel
- Matthew Henry
- Thomas Goodwin
- Richard Sibbes
- Samuel Rutherford

Modern Era

- Charles Hodge
- John Murray
- Martyn Lloyd-Jones
- F. F. Bruce
- R. C. Sproul
- John MacArthur
- John Piper

Romans 11

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A. Israel's temporary rejection shifts focus to the salvation of Gentiles (11:11-24)
B. Israel will be saved in the future (11:25-32)
III. Appropriate response is worship (11:33-36)

