

Series: A Future for Israel  
"The Mystery" # 3  
Romans 11:25-36  
9-13-15 Sun PM

Our text gives us a recap and summary of the great truths of God's unconditional promise to Israel. A mystery in the Bible is a previously hidden truth, not revealed on the OT, but declared and explained in the NT (12).

In Romans 11:25 the mystery is that "blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of Gentiles be come in."

**TT-** I want to share 5 phrases from our text that explain this mystery and God's eternal covenant with the nation of Israel. He will graft the natural branches back into the olive tree [vs. 23-24].

**1. "Blindness in Part" [v. 25a].**

Blindness here means "hardened." Present-day Israel is plagued with a three-fold blindness:

1. The blindness caused by the fall of Adam [Eph. 4:18].
2. The blindness caused by Satan [2 Cor. 4:4].
3. The blindness caused by God "is happened" [Rom. 11:5-8]. The reason for this blindness was prophesied by Isaiah [Isa. 29:10] and David [Ps. 69:21-23].

Israel has been judicially blinded but only "in part." Only some of the branches have been broken off [11:17], so that the Gentiles could be offered salvation.

**2. "Fullness of the Gentiles" [v. 25b].**

God is presently visiting the Gentiles to take out of them a people for his name [Acts 15:14].

When the full number is reached its determined end, which only God knows, then the "Times of the Gentiles" will end and God will begin to deal with Israel as His elect nation again.

We want to call God "unfair" in choosing His own and showing mercy on whom he will show mercy, but we seem to have no problem with the "fullness." There is a completion of a number that will come into the church.

**Luke 21:24,** And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled.

The “Times of the Gentiles” covers the period from the Babylon captivity through the tribulation. The “fullness of the Gentiles” covers the period of the church age from Pentecost until the rapture [Acts 15:14].

What does this mean?

1. Believing Gentiles are presently being grafted into the olive tree of blessing, privilege, and salvation.
2. The church has not replaced Israel [11:1, 24]. God will restore Israel.

### **3. “All Israel Shall be Saved” [vs. 26-27].**

Israel will be purged for their rejection in “The time of Jacob’s trouble” [Jer. 30:7]. Paul then refers to...

**Isa. 59:20-21**, And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD. (21) As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

This will take place at the Second Coming when Christ comes to establish His millennial kingdom after the great tribulation period. The believing remnant [one-third] will be saved.

### **Turn to Jeremiah 31:31-37**

### **4. “The Gifts and Calling of God” [vs. 28-29].**

**v. 28:** Because of Israel’s sin in rejecting the Messiah she was set aside [hardened] becoming enemies of the Gospel so salvation would come to the Gentiles.

This was not permanent because of God’s sovereign choice. Some have called them “the beloved enemies of God.”

**v. 29:** Their enmity to the Gospel is not permanent because “the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” [irrevocable and can’t rescinded]. God will not change his mind in his unconditional covenant to Abraham.

**1 Thess. 5:23-24**, And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (24) Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

## 5. "Obtain Mercy" [vs. 30-32].

Israel's **disobedience** doesn't change the fact that God can still have mercy as He did on disobedient Gentiles.

**Closing verses-** Rom. 11:33-36 show our response to the great truths in chapters (9-11) where we see Israel's past election, Israel's present rejection, and Israel's future restoration.

So, don't spend much time worrying about the destruction of Israel, but rather, tighten up your spiritual walk, share the gospel, and submit to God's sovereign will!