

Introduction:

Many of the Israelites believed that they were chosen by God simply because they were the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. They believed that they would be right with God through the keeping of the law of God.

Therefore, they rejected the gospel's offer of a righteousness that comes by faith in Jesus Christ.

Romans 9:30 (ESV) What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith;  
Romans 9:31 (ESV) but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

In particular they rejected faith in Christ who died to take away our sins.

Romans 9:32 (ESV) Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,  
Romans 9:33 (ESV) as it is written, "**Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling**, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

The stumbling stone is a person.

Romans 9:33 (ESV) as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

The person is the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

In particular it is the fact that Christ died that proved to be the great stumbling block. That is what tripped them up as it were.

1 Corinthians 1:23 (ESV) but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,

They thought that the Messiah would come and immediately establish His kingdom.

They failed to realize that the Messiah would come and die.

They failed to realize that the Messiah needed to die so that their sins could be forgiven so that they would be a part of His Kingdom.

Salvation comes to all people groups through calling upon Christ.

Romans 10:13 (ESV) For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

Romans 10:17 (ESV) So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. ( the word about Christ (the Messiah)

Thus there is a process to salvation.

One must believe the gospel (the word about Christ)

Romans 10:14 (ESV) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

In order to believe the gospel one must hear the gospel.

Romans 10:14 (ESV) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

In order to hear the gospel someone has to tell them the gospel

Romans 10:14 (ESV) How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

In order for someone to tell them the gospel they must go to them.

Romans 10:15 (ESV) And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!”

The process was fulfilled in regards to the Israelites.

Romans 10:18 (ESV) **But I ask, have they not heard?** Indeed they have, for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”

Romans 10:19 (ESV) **But I ask, did Israel not understand?** First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry.”

Romans 11:1 (ESV) **I ask, then, has God rejected his people?** By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

Romans 11:7 (ESV) What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. **The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,**

Now the question is, “Is there no hope of the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob being saved?”

Was it God’s purpose that the Israelites in rejecting Christ as their Messiah would now be totally without hope?

Romans 11:11 (ESV) **So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall?** By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

Did their stumbling ( the rejection and crucifixion of Christ) mean that they had to stay down on the ground and could not get up again?

Was there no way for them to be brought into a right relationship with God? Are all Jews doomed forever?

Theme: The physical Israelites will be saved if they place their faith in Christ just as many of the Gentiles have.

Romans 11:30 (ESV) For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

Romans 11:31 (ESV) so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

Romans 11:32 (ESV) **For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.**

Key Verses: Romans 11:11 (ESV) So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.  
Romans 11:12 (ESV) Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

- I. The Israelites failure to believe and rejection of Christ was prophesied and in keeping with the plan of God.
  - A. The gospel was a stumbling block to many of the Israelites.
    1. Key word is stumble.

Romans 11:11 (ESV) **So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall?** By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.
    2. To stumble is to trip over something.
    3. The something that they tripped over was the death of the Messiah.
  - B. It was prophesied that the gospel (which included Christ's death) would be a stumbling block to many of the Israelites.
    1. David alluded to it.

Romans 11:9 (ESV) And David says, "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a **stumbling block** and a retribution for them;
    2. Isaiah alluded to it.

Romans 9:33 (ESV) as it is written, "Behold, I am laying **in Zion a stone of stumbling**, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."
  - C. The rejection of Christ by the Israelites was a part of God's plan.

Romans 11:7 (ESV) What then? Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. The elect obtained it, but the rest were hardened,  
Romans 11:8 (ESV) as it is written, "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that would not see and ears that would not hear, down to this very day."

1 Peter 2:6 (ESV) For it stands in Scripture: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

1 Peter 2:7 (ESV) So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

1 Peter 2:8 (ESV) and **“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.”**  
**They stumble because they disobey the word,** as they were destined to do.

1 Peter 2:8 (ESV) and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, **as they were destined to do.**

II. In the rejection of the Messiah salvation has come to all people.

Romans 11:12 (ESV) Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

Acts 2:21 (ESV) And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

Acts 2:22 (ESV) “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—

Acts 2:23 (ESV) this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.

A. Through the rejection of the Messiah salvation has come to the gentiles.

Romans 11:12 (ESV) Now if **their trespass means** riches for the world, and if **their failure means riches for the Gentiles,** how much more will their full inclusion mean!

Romans 9:23 (ESV) in order to make known **the riches of his glory** for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—

Romans 9:24 (ESV) even us whom he has called, **not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?**

Romans 9:25 (ESV) As indeed he says in Hosea, **“Those who were not my people I will call ‘my people,’** and her who was not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’ ”

Romans 9:26 (ESV) “And in the very place where it was said to them, ‘You are not my people,’ there they will be called ‘sons of the living God.’ ”

- B. Through the rejection of the Messiah salvation has come to the Israelites (the physical descendants of Abraham) as well.

Romans 11:12 (ESV) Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

- C. The tree analogy. Israel (descendants of Abraham) is likened unto a “family tree.”

Romans 11:16 (ESV) If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

1. Some of the branches (physical descendants) of the family tree of Abraham have been broken off. That is they are lost.

Romans 11:17 (ESV) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

2. The reason that they have been broken off is due to a lack of faith.

Romans 11:20 (ESV) That is true. **They were broken off because of their unbelief,** but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.

Because of their lack of faith some of the physical descendants of Abraham are no longer a part of Abraham’s family tree of faith.

3. Conversely, there are “spiritual descendants of Abraham (gentiles) who are not physical descendants of Abraham. They are wild branches that have been grafted into his family tree.

Romans 11:17 (ESV) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

- a. The gentiles are not physical descendants of Abraham.

Romans 11:17 (ESV) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

- b. However, by faith in Christ they have been made a part (grafted into) the family tree of Abraham.

Romans 11:17 (ESV) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

- c. They now benefit from all the promises made to Abraham.

Romans 11:17 (ESV) But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,

- 4. The natural branches (physical descendants of Abraham) who were broken off (because they rejected Christ) can be grafted back in, just as the gentiles were, if they too place faith in Christ.

Romans 11:23 (ESV) And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.

Romans 11:24 (ESV) For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

- 5. In the future there will be many of ethnic Israel (physical descendants of Abraham) which will place faith in Christ.

Romans 11:11 (ESV) So I ask, did they stumble in order that they might fall? By no means! Rather, through their trespass salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous.

Romans 11:12 (ESV) Now if their trespass means riches for the world, and if their failure means riches for the Gentiles, how much more will their full inclusion mean!

III. Thus all true Israel (descendants of Abraham through faith - whether Jew or Gentile) will be saved.

A. Believing gentiles (grafted in branches) become a part of Israel's promises.

Romans 11:25 (ESV) Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the **Gentiles has come in.**

Romans 11:26 (ESV) And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob";

Romans 9:7 (ESV) and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named."

Romans 9:8 (ESV) This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.

Romans 9:25 (ESV) As indeed he says in Hosea, "Those who were not my people I will call 'my people,' and her who was not beloved I will call 'beloved.' "

Romans 9:26 (ESV) "And in the very place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' there they will be called 'sons of the living God.' "

B. The elect among unbelieving physical Israel will be grafted back into the true spiritual Israel by placing faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:27 (ESV) "and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins."

Romans 11:28 (ESV) As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers.

Romans 11:29 (ESV) For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

Romans 11:30 (ESV) For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

Romans 11:31 (ESV) so they too have now been disobedient in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

C. All peoples are viewed as sinners, and all find acceptance by God through faith in the crucified and risen Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:32 (ESV) For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

Romans 1:16 (ESV) For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Romans 1:14 (ESV) I am under obligation both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

Romans 1:15 (ESV) So I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

IV. Conclusion:

- A. The rejection of Christ as Messiah was in keeping with the plan and will of God.
- B. The rejection of Christ resulted in His death and resurrection which brought salvation to all peoples of the earth.
- C. Through faith in the resurrected Christ all the elect of God, Jew and Gentile, will be saved.

Revelation 7:9 (ESV) After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

Revelation 7:10 (ESV) and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

