

San Juan church of Christ

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Will All Of Israel Be Saved?

When the gospel message was given to the Gentiles, Peter said that “God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him” (Acts 10:34-35). The theme of the entire book of Romans is that we are justified [saved] by faith in Jesus Christ. Paul wrote that the gospel “is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek” (Romans 1:16). Then, after showing that both the Jews and the Gentiles are sinners, Paul concludes, “For ALL have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Paul then wrote how all mankind can claim the benefits of the death of Christ, “Or do you not know that ALL of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?” (Romans 6:3). The Jews had rejected Jesus as being the Christ and failed to believe in Him (Romans 9:31-32).

In Romans chapter 11, Paul uses the example of the olive tree, with Israel [Jews] being the “natural branches,” and the Gentiles the “grafted in branches. Paul said that “branches were broken off” [Jews] so that the Gentiles “might be grafted in”. “They [Jews] were broken off for their unbelief...For if God did not spare the natural branches [Jews] He will not spare you [Gentile] either. And they [Jews] also, if they do not continue in their unbelief will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again” (Romans 11:19-23). In other words, God will save Israel [Jews] and Gentiles in exactly the same way in Christ. This statement is then affirmed in Romans 11:26, “And SO all Israel will be saved.” The meaning is that God saves the Gentiles through faith and “SO” [an adverb which describes the means or manner] by which all Israel will be saved. In other words, the word “so” in verse 26 indicates that all who are saved [Jew and Gentile] will be saved in the same way that Paul described, which is by faith in Christ. Instead of affirming the false teaching that all Israel will be saved, this verse, along with the previous verses, clearly teach that only those who believe in Christ will be saved.

Gentiles who reject Christ will not be saved. Jews who reject Jesus will not be saved. Rather than teaching “universal salvation of the Jews,” Paul taught universal salvation to all the world through faith in Christ. The Jews have no special status before God. They will be saved, or lost, on the same basis as the Gentiles. This will be on an individual basis, not a national basis.