

Special Guest: Don Finto

God has not rejected Israel (Romans 11:1, 11). In fact, the return of the Jews to God stands as a clear prophetic message of Scripture (Hosea 3:4-5; Isaiah 6:8-11; Ezekiel 36:24-27; Matthew 23:39). When the fullness of Israel's acceptance of Jesus takes place, blessing and revival will be released in all the earth (Romans 11:12, 15; Isaiah 19:23-25). For non-Jewish followers of Jesus, we share in these promises towards Israel, but we do not replace her (Romans 11:17). Instead, our role is to share with them both material and spiritual blessings, to show them mercy, and to make them jealous for the presence of God (Romans 11:11, 28-30; Romans 15:27).

GET STARTED

How mindful are you of Israel and what is happening with the Jewish people spiritually and socio-politically? What impact does their current situation have on you personally and on your relationship with our Heavenly Father? Don Finto, in his message, challenged us to know the *signs of the times* in which we live (Matthew 16:3; 24:36). What possible *signs of the times* do you see concerning Israel and world affairs, and what do you think those signs mean?

GO DEEPER

1. In Romans 11:1 the apostle Paul asks if God has rejected Israel. And again, in Romans 11:11, he asks if Israel has stumbled beyond recovery (a rewording of his first question). His answer to both questions is a resounding NO. So where and when do you think the notion developed that the church today has replaced Israel when it comes to the promises made to the Jewish people in Scripture (i.e. replacement theology)? Why does this even matter today?
2. According to Romans 11:12, what will happen when the fullness of Israel accepts and embraces Jesus? What are the *greater riches* that this verse mentions?

MAKE IT PERSONAL

1. What do you think needs to change in your heart and perspective towards the Jewish people?
2. What does it look like for you personally to bless the Jews, spiritually and/or materially, in order to show them mercy and to make them jealous?

PRACTICE IT NOW

As a group, take time to pray blessing over Israel. Ask God to fulfill His promises to the Jewish people, to bring the fullness of Israel to a saving faith in Jesus.

PODCAST

As an additional source of encouragement and insight, check out our weekly podcast, Beyond Sundays, at anchor.fm/beyondsundays.