

The Main Point: Individuals are saved. That's a done deal. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." 10:13 Nations are saved too. In fact, all the nations of the earth will be represented in heaven (Revelation 5:9) and of them, most valued is Israel. However, most individuals are not saved by their own choice. The saved acknowledge that everything exists by God's power and is intended for his glory - including themselves.

Overview

1-V1-5 To the question: Has God rejected the Jewish people because as a nation they and their leaders rejected God by crucifying the Lord Jesus? Some of Israel is always faithful to God. In the days of Elijah there were _____ who bowed only to the God of Creation when Elijah felt that he was the only one left who didn't worship Baal.

2-V5-6 "If anyone does not love the Lord that person is cursed." (I Corinthians 15:22) God is rejected by offering him good _____ rather than loving him. God, in his wonderful kindness, _____ them. They did not accept the _____ and undeserved gift.

3-V7-8 The Jews, like people to this day, were earnestly _____ God---BUT ON THEIR OWN TERMS. God said, "All day long I opened my arms to them, but they kept disobeying and arguing with me." (10:21) So instead of finding _____ with God ---God makes them _____ because he will not let those caught up in self-directed ways draw near. He causes them to fall into a deep _____. He shuts their _____ so they do not see. He closes their _____ so they do not hear. He locks them into their attitude.

4-V9-10 Churches are filled with the religious who tell each other that their bountiful _____ proves that they deserve blessing and other people deserve their misery. When, in fact, their endowments and opportunities were a spiritual test -- of their generosity - which they failed.

5-V11-15 God sees centuries of history as we see years. From his point of view the Jews did not _____ and fall beyond _____. They turned down His offer of salvation. However, God had a purpose in it-- to give the rest of the world _____. The day is coming when they will _____ Jesus as their Messiah and be saved.

6-V16-20 God's people, both Jews and Gentiles, are compared to an _____ tree. The Jews were the roots. The gentiles are the _____. The Gentiles might say the Jewish branches were broken off to make _____ for them. But they were broken off because they didn't _____ God, and you are there because you _____ believe.

7-V20-21 Be warned! Don't think _____ highly of yourselves. If the Jews, so beloved of God, were not spared, he won't spare you if you fall away from your trust in His kindness.

8-V22 "Notice how God is both _____ and _____. He is severe to those who _____ but kind to you if you continue to _____ in His kindness. But if you _____ trusting, you also will be _____."

9-V25-26 For the last 2,000 years some (or the nation as a whole) had _____ regarding accepting Jesus their Messiah as their Lord. But, this will last only until the _____ of the Gentiles come to _____. _____ Israel will be _____.

10-V26-27 The Holy Spirit brings Isaiah 59:20-21 to Paul's attention. It seems to point to the second coming of Christ. God says, "A _____ (only Christ fits the bill) will come from Jerusalem and he will turn _____ from their ungodliness. And then I will keep my _____ with them and take away their _____."

11-V28-32 God's _____ and _____ can never be withdrawn. God made promises to Abraham even though Israel faltered in their covenant with God.

12-V33 "Oh, what a _____ a God we have! How great are his _____ and _____ and _____. How impossible it is for us to understand Him."

13-V36 _____ comes from God. Everything _____ by his power. Everything is intended for his _____. To him be _____ for evermore! Amen!

Word Study

• REJECTED • ALL • ELIJAH • UNRESPONSIVE • SNARE • OLIVE

1. V1 _____ God does not reject first. People reject him first. "How shall we escape if **we neglect** so great a salvation?" Hebrews 2:3 It seems that God rejects back—some of those who reject him. On the other hand, he shows immediate mercy and almost compels some to accept him. When the dust settles, it will always be seen that God is an accepter. "Anyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." Romans 10:13

2. V2 _____ There are times in the history of nations that it seems that a nation is totally caught up in evil and hopelessness. It seemed that way in the days of Elijah the prophet not so many years after David. King Ahab and his wife Jezebel were the worst of the worst. They promoted every other satanic god and every kind of depravity and the worst in the citizens was brought out. Elijah grieved. "Lord they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars, I alone am left". But God, who sees the hearts of all people, told him that there were actually 7,000 people like him in Israel who never bowed down to Baal.

I Kings 19:10-14 In every generation of Jews, some were loyal to THE LORD.

3. V7 _____ God is not going around stopping people from coming to him. He is stopping them from coming to him on their own terms. God will not yield to ultimatums and threats and manipulation. God compelled the first people to leave the garden because the earth would not have been able to bear them if these rebels had access to the Tree of Life and never died. "Go to this people and tell them this: 'You're going to listen with your ears, but you won't hear a word; You're going to stare with your eyes, but you won't see a thing. These people are blockheads! They stick their fingers in their ears so they won't have to listen; They screw their eyes shut so they won't have to look, so they won't have to deal with me face-to-face and let me heal them.'" Isaiah 6:6-10 (Message Bible) Quoted by Jesus in Matthew 13:14-15 and quoted by Paul in Acts 28:26-27.

4. V9 _____ Bountiful table is a way of speaking of people who have a lot of things, pleasures, comforts, privileges, with a freedom from sickness and injustice. Prosperity is a snare to the human soul. Jesus said that it is hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Most Americans have a bountiful table compared to 80% of the world. Prosperity is a snare because it allows people to immerse themselves in the material world and a spiritual life is crowded out. It is a snare because those blessed lie to themselves and tell each other they deserve more than others. They break the commandment to love people as themselves.

5. V26 _____ The Scripture does not teach anywhere that everyone will be saved. Jesus said that though many are called few are saved. What is meant here is that some people "out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation" will be in heaven. Revelation 5:9 What is prophesied here is that there will be such a massive crowd of Israel coming toward Christ in

the Second Coming (or some other ingathering of Israel in the future) that it will seem as if all Israel were saved.

6.V17-24_____ This tree is often used as a picture of God's people in the same way as the grapevine is. The olive is a fruit-bearing tree. Every disciple of Christ is expected to bear fruit. Those branches that do not bear fruit are cut off and burned. Those that do are pruned and enabled to be fruitful. There are two kinds of fruit. John 15:1f(1) The fruit of repentance--repent means to change one's mind to agree with God's mind. In this chapter--to agree with God about the means of salvation---His grace. (2) The fruit of good works which bring glory to God. Matthew 5:16

What does this Scripture say to you?
