

Our Great and Glorious God

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Romans 11:25-12:1.

B. The Jews are a remarkable people—has God forgotten them?

C. Reasons God has not forgotten His people—the Jews.

1. God has turned to the Gentiles to arouse the Jews to jealousy.
2. The promises of worldwide blessing are hinged upon the restoration of Israel to God.
3. Even Gentiles when they become believers become spiritual Israelites.

II. Paul prophesies that restoration will return to Israel.

A. It is not something that is caused by natural things—it is a mystery. A mystery is something that must be revealed to someone.

B. A hardening of heart toward the gospel will come upon the Jews first.

1. The hardening will be limited in time.
2. The fullness of the Gentiles must come into the faith first.
 - a. The Jews have lost the richness of relationship with God
 - b. The fullness of the Gentiles refers to spiritual fullness that will arouse the Jews to jealousy.

C. The prophets foretold of Israel's restoration.

D. The Jews may be treated as an enemy, but God loves them irrevocably.

III. God has turned all men over to disobedience so that He might have mercy on them all—God used Jewish disobedience in order to give opportunity to rebellious Gentiles to receive mercy.

A. God is showing that everyone is in rebellion.

B. A self-confident arrogance keeps a person from God's mercy.

IV. God's nature.

A. God cannot be anticipated.

1. His judgments are unsearchable.

2. Nothing interferes with human choice, but nothing humans ever do frustrates God's sovereign plans.

B. No one can be God's advisor.

1. To argue with God is to argue with the One who makes it possible to argue.

2. It is only reasonable for man to be available to God. (Romans 12:1-2)

Application questions:

1. Will the Jewish people be restored? Defend your answer.

2. How have the Gentiles benefited from Jewish disobedience? Explain.

3. What about the speaker's message did you find difficult, if anything? How does an understanding of God's nature help one with difficult truths?
