

receiving of them be, but life from the dead?" ^{Thus} ~~But~~ Paul points out that this is not a permanent casting aside. Israel is eventually to be grafted back into its own olive tree (verses 23-24). This leads us to our fourth observation regarding God's prophetic statements about Israel.

IV. ISRAEL IS AGAIN TO RECEIVE A PLACE IN THE CENTER OF GOD'S BLESSING

This part of the wonderful promises of God is clearly brought out in Romans 11. We have already noted verses 15 and 23-24. Verse 26 declares, "so all Israel shall be saved:"

There is to be a marvelous fulfillment of God's permanent and unbreakable promises to Abraham. Though for a long time seemingly cast aside, all Israel is eventually to be saved. They will be a nation born in a day. They will be received back into the olive tree.

As we read the prophetic statements of God's Word, we fear that there is great suffering still ahead for Israel. But we know that God's mercy will never leave them. In Isaiah 62:7 God declared that He will 'make Jerusalem a praise in the earth.' Verse 12 says, "And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken." Isaiah 66:8 says, "Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children."

After the rapture of the church God has important purposes for Israel. She is to go through great suffering. She is to bear a great witness, and in the end she is to be as a nation born in a day. They will look upon Him whom they have pierced and will turn to Him with all their hearts. In the millenium Israel will have a vital part, and will continue to be the *recipient of* God's blessing.