Gentiles and Jews in the New Testament

Following the Jew’s rejection of their Messiah, we see God’s purpose for mankind further unfold:

➢ The Concept of the Church

• The mystery and purpose of the church is revealed.
  > In Matthew 16:18 Jesus announced, “I will build my church,” referring to a special “called out” people of believing Jews and Gentiles. This program was previously unknown (a mystery). (Eph. 2:11-18; 3:3-5; Col. 1:26-27)
  > God is taking from the Gentiles a “people for his name” (Acts 15:14). In so doing, this also provokes the unbelieving Jews to jealously, with the intent of bringing them back to God (Rom. 11:11).
• God’s plan for the Gentiles unfolds.
  > By faith, Gentiles today are “grafted in” to God’s program. Being “in Christ” (Who is a descendent of Abraham) we are now “joint heirs” with Israel concerning their promises. (Rom. 11:17; Gal. 3:14; Eph. 3:6)
  > Though many OT promises made to Israel are yet to be fulfilled, the church does enjoy being part of the eternal kingdom of God’s people today (Col. 1:13).

➢ The Future of Israel

• God has not abandoned the Jews.
  > Despite Israel’s rebellion, God has kept His promise to never forsake them (Deut. 31:6; Rom. 11:1).
  > Jews are still encouraged to repent in order to once again enjoy God’s blessings (Acts 3:13-20).
• The hope of the nation of Israel is confirmed.
  > God’s promises to Israel were unconditional. A New Covenant emphasizes the changed hearts and forgiveness Israel will experience (Jer. 31:31-34). God will fulfill these for His “name’s sake” (Is. 48:9-11).
  > Romans 11 states that when the program with the Gentiles is complete, a remnant of believing Jews will return to God, and the nation of Israel as a whole will again experience God’s blessing (Rom. 11:25-26).