

The Olive Tree

Romans 11:16-24, Part II

- I. God has sovereignly determined that Israel's stumbling is temporary and that the nation will be restored to the place of God's blessing (11:16).
 - The promises of the Abrahamic covenant ensure Israel of a future.
 - God will not go back on His promises to Israel.

- II. God has always preserved a believing remnant in Israel (11:17).
 - Unbelieving Israel has been broken off.
 - Believing Gentiles are indebted to Israel.

- III. God has grafted believing Gentiles into the tree of the Abrahamic covenant to temporarily replace unbelieving Israel (11:17).
 - Gentiles Christians are recipients of God's blessings through the Abrahamic covenant.

- IV. God warns Gentile believers to not repeat the sin of unbelieving Israel (11: 18-21).
 - Spiritual pride and all anti-Semitism must be rejected by Gentiles.

- Gentile Christians enjoy the spiritual blessings of the Abrahamic covenant because of faith not because of race, ethnicity, culture, or good works.

V. God gives grace to the humble but resists the proud (11:22-23).

- If Gentiles turn from the gospel there will be a price to pay.

VI. God is able and will graft believing Israel back into the root of Abrahamic blessing (11:24).

Conclusion/summary

1. The Olive Tree tells us that Jesus Christ is the center of God's kingdom-redemption plan.
 - The blessings promised to both Jews and Gentiles come through Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:6-9, 29).
2. The Olive Tree explains the relationship between Jew and Gentile in the program of God.
 - Israel's present state of unbelief has a threefold purpose: (a) riches (provision of our salvation), (b) fulfillment – promise of millennial blessing, (c) jealousy – provoke Israel to believe apart from works and self-righteousness and get their eyes open to the truth.

3. The Olive Tree exhorts the church to refrain from a boastful attitude toward Israel.

- We have a debt to Judaism. Israel must not be treated with contempt. We must take the gospel to the Jews.
- Israel is under discipline in this age.
- Gentiles are to show Jews loving respect
- Church history does not leave a good record in this regard.

4. The Olive Tree warns the professing Gentile Christian world that it can be removed from the place of blessing (1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Pet. 2:1-22; Rev. 17:3-18).

5. The Olive Tree gladdens us with the prospect that Israel's present state of unbelief and Gentile belief is not permanent.
 - The national promises to Israel have not been cancelled and taken over by the church.