

## ROMANS 11:13-25a

\*Paul will now be addressing the Gentiles and confirm the office that God has appointed Apostle Paul to:

Romans 11:13-14 - For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: Rom. 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are my flesh*, and might save some of them.

1. Paul's apostleship is so important to understand and to be scripturally indisputable. Paul holds a special position as God's messenger to the Gentiles, and not Peter or the 12. Again, in verse 13 - *For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office*:  
Galatians 2:9 - And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.  
I Timothy 2:7 - Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, *and lie not*;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.
2. Paul is not magnifying himself, but the importance of his ministry in Ephesians 3:8 - *Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ*;
3. The Jews were bitterly jealous of the Gentiles and they resented any extension of a religious privilege to them. Despite their (Jews) present attitude, Paul looks forward to the day when the nation of Israel will be converted, because God has not lost sight of His ultimate goal to save His people.
4. In verse 14, Paul is trying to provoke Israel to jealousy and he was fairly effective in doing so, because some of them believed. So Paul's message here is that the Jews had to be saved - just like the Gentiles.  
\*They had to stop trying to keep the Law, to quit trying to establish their own righteousness, and just come by faith only in Christ and His finished work at Calvary (His D.B.R.).
5. Religions of today are trying to make us like the Jews' religion:  
\*To put us under Israel's "great commission"  
\*Take Israel's baptism and put us in Israel's church  
\*Put us in Israel's program of being under Israel's Law  
\*To put us under Peter's and Israel's earthly hope
1. Israel's rejection brought the greatest blessing the Gentile world would ever have given to them: Paul's preaching of the Gospel of Grace message.

Romans 11:15 - For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving of *them be*, but life from the dead?

2. Some have interpreted "the reconciling of the world" to mean that the whole world is automatically saved through the death of Christ, but this is not what Paul is saying here.  
\*Reconciliation is a two-way street. God has done His part by surrendering His Son to pay the price for mankind's sins - the shedding of Jesus Christ's blood for an atonement to cover sin. Man's part is his response of a heart faith.

II Corinthians 5:19-20 - To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. 2Cor. 5:20 Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

3. When Israel returns to her glory under Christ's reign, there will be a worldwide revival - "*the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?*" Paul's main point in verses 13-15 is that God still has a plan and purpose for Israel in the ages to come.

\*We will now see Paul use two metaphors in the following verses about ❶ the first fruit of the lump; and ❷ the root and the branches.

1. "For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy:" comes from Numbers 15:17-21, where they would

Romans 11:16 - For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

bring the firstfruit of their dough as an offering to the Lord. The Lord's acceptance indicated that the rest of the lump of dough was holy too.

Numbers 15:17-21 - And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Num. 15:18 Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land whither I bring you, Num. 15:19 Then it shall be, that, when ye eat of the bread of the land, ye shall offer up an heave offering unto the LORD. Num. 15:20 Ye shall offer up a cake of the first of your dough *for* an heave offering: as *ye do* the heave offering of the threshingfloor, so shall ye heave it. Num. 15:21 Of the first of your dough ye shall give unto the LORD an heave offering in your generations.

\*This became one of the seven appointed feasts mentioned in the book of Leviticus (Chapter 23), as a heave offering to acknowledge God as the creator of all the land crops and therefore presenting the first fruits of the harvest.

2. Paul is illustrating here that the firstfruits are the Little Flock remnant. The lump is the incoming believers of the 12 and the future two witnesses (including the 144,000 in the Tribulation).

\*These are the ones who believed Peter's Kingdom-Messiah message as the "firstfruits" in (Acts 1-7).

James 1:18 - Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

3. The last part of verse 16 - "*and if the root be holy, so are the branches.*" "The root" here would be Abraham, because he was the first to be set apart by God to form a special, chosen nation of people - Israel.

\*The root is what all the branches grow from and therefore the branches are the nation Israel.

Genesis 12:1-2 - Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: Gen. 12:2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:

1. The branches, being Israel's unbelievers, are broken off with no hope after the stoning of Stephen in Acts 7.

\*Notice it says some of the branches were removed. This would be the small remnant of the nation Israel-

Romans 11:17 - And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

the Little Flock, including Paul himself with his revelation that he had received from the Lord.

2. Paul mentions the "olive tree", that represents Israel's spiritual life they had with God. Paul mentions a "wild olive tree" being grafted into the spiritual privileges and blessings Israel had. This wild olive tree would be us - the Gentile nations.

\*We have now been given access to God, the access that Israel had enjoyed before their fall.

Ephesians 2:18 - For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

3. We are not grafted into Israel (as a nation, they have fallen). Gentiles are now saved by faith alone, totally apart from Israel's national and religious life.

Romans 4:16 - Therefore *it is* of faith, that *it might be* by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

4. God uses two programs in Acts to provoke Israel to jealousy - the Little Flock and the Body of Christ Gentile believers.

a. "the good olive tree" represents the Little Flock.

b. "the wild olive tree" represents the believing Gentiles.

5. Paul's message in this illustration of the branches being broken off and others grafted in is twofold:

a. First, that Israel was broken off for unbelief, but they will be saved in the future.

b. Second, that the Gentiles better not boast against the branches because they stand by faith and if through unbelief, they also can be broken off. Look what the next verse says.

1. While God disapproved of Israel's unbelief, God is also acting with the present redemption dispensation of the Gentiles in mind.

Romans 11:18 - Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

\*The Gentiles should not take a holier-than-thou attitude and boast against unbelieving Israel either.

2. As believers, the only reason we are saved and have spiritual blessings is that we have identified ourselves with the root - Abraham, in and by faith.

Ephesians 2:12-13 - That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:  
Eph. 2:13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

1. Paul tells the Gentiles to not become like Israel's unbelievers, who became proud of themselves. Don't let pride make you think you are more superior or important than Israel.

2. The reason some Gentiles stood for God was that, at a point in time, they began a relationship with God

Romans 11:19-20 - Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Rom. 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

by faith in Christ. They were to never have a haughty spirit and always be in reverence of God's grace.

Proverbs 16:18 - Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

3. Let him who stands beware lest he fall. Gentiles should not be puffed up with pride, but should rather fear in awe of God's grace. God could withhold His goodness as we will see in verse 22.

Romans 11:21-22 - For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

Rom. 11:22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

1. Paul is declaring that the majority of God's chosen people (the Jews) had not been spared from God's judgment and were cut off. Paul knew that God also would not spare unbelieving Gentiles.
2. Verse 22 is not talking about one losing their salvation. Paul is talking about unbelieving Roman Gentiles losing their "without-Israel" method of access to God.

\*Some preachers today try to use this passage to say you can lose your salvation - teaching conditional salvation.

3. Unfortunately, Gentiles are fast approaching the same place as Israel's status - where God is going to run out of patience with the Gentile world system that is rejecting His grace and not believing in Him.

\*One day Israel's unbelief is going to be removed. That little true remnant that God was protecting for 3 1/2

Romans 11:23 - And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

years in the wilderness from Antichrist in the Tribulation will come forth as the true Israel-grafted in.

1. God had no reason to reach out to these unbelieving Jews and is comparing the Gentiles to this - except by

Romans 11:24 - For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

His grace. So God took the no-good Gentiles and brought them in to take part of Abraham's blessings.

2. God has been letting the Gentiles enjoy grace and the spiritual blessings that Israel once had. But, God will set the Gentiles aside one day and put Israel back - being Abraham's chosen people - to lead the Kingdom in the ages to come after the 7-year Tribulation.

Zechariah 8:22-23 - Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. Zech. 8:23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days *it shall come to pass*, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard *that God is* with you.

1. After Israel said no to the resurrected Messiah and stoned Stephen, they were temporarily set aside from their favored status, being partially blinded.

Romans 11:25 - For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

2. Right after Acts 7, God then raised a new Apostle to lead a new program known as the "Dispensation of Grace" - the Apostle Paul.

\*God created a new division in the Bible (not between the Old Testament & New Testament), but divided it between the Prophecy program with Israel to the Mystery program with the Body of Christ in effect today.

3. This means that today God is not fulfilling the Old Testament's or the Gospels' prophecies. God is carrying out His hidden secret - which was kept secret since the world began.

Romans 16:25 - Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

\*Next week, we will finish Romans - Chapter 11 and see how God will bring the "fulness of the Gentiles" to a conclusion and show Israel's bright future once again.