

“All Israel Shall Be Saved’ - God Fulfills His Promises - Part 4

Review: “All Israel Shall Be Saved’ - God Fulfills His Promises - Part 3”

The Olive Tree Analogy:

- **An Overview of God’s Dispensational Plan According to Prophecy**
- **A Summary of the Meaning of the Olive Tree Analogy**

The Olive Tree Analogy:

- **An Overview of God’s Dispensational Plan According to Prophecy**

[READ] Romans 11:11-14

11 I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but [rather] through their fall salvation [is come] unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.

12 Now if the fall of them [be] the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:

14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation [or “jealousy”] [them which are] my flesh, and might save some of them.

- We began last time with chapter 11 and verse 11. This teaching is pivotal in Paul’s teaching here since it declares boldly that through God’s plan Israel as a nation has indeed been set aside during this dispensation, but that in the Lord’s good timing, that plan for the Jewish elect nation shall be implemented. And, it will be far greater than it ever could have been in the Lord’s sight as a result of our blessings under grace today. So wonderful.

So the Lord does indeed have a future plan reserved for his chosen people! In no way does the Body of Christ church replace or supplant the elect nation of Israel in the plan of Almighty God. Yes, this has occurred temporarily, for that nation has been set aside. But the Lord’s will is that it shall not be set aside permanently.

- Verse 11 “... Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid”: The Jews stumbled and then fell on the Rock of their Salvation, their Messiah. But not forever is the apostle’s point here. See Romans 9:33, pointing back to Isaiah 8:14-15 & 28:16.
- “... but [rather] through their fall salvation [is come] unto the Gentiles”: Dispensationally speaking, Paul writes here that a Dispensation of God’s Grace was initiated when their legal dispensations (first Moses’s, and then later, the Pentecostal) were terminated.

- Verses 11 & 14 "... for to provoke them to jealousy": In other words, in their falling away from their dispensational blessings, through unbelief and a works kind of righteousness, they could see in Gentile salvation a way past or beyond or apart from the Law. One might well wonder if many Jews have been saved according to this pattern, but it could be a great many, of course. And perhaps it was and is the only way.
- **This is all about the primarily spiritual blessings that prophecy had promised to God's chosen people being given instead to others (the Gentiles), explicitly contrary to the prophetic plan.** That prophetic plan was to be carried out through Israel's national salvation and what would then follow, as the Lord fulfilled his promises to them, from Genesis 12:3 and onwards. In Isaiah 60 the prophetic future of God's chosen people, the Jews and his elect nation, Israel, is made so clear;

[READ] Isaiah 60:14-16, 21-22

14 The sons also of them that afflicted thee shall come bending unto thee; and all they that despised thee shall bow themselves down at the soles of thy feet; and they shall call thee, The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel.

15 Whereas thou hast been forsaken and hated, so that no man went through *thee*, I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations.

16 Thou shalt also suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt suck the breast of kings: and thou shalt know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob.

...

21 Thy people also *shall be* all righteous: they shall inherit the land for ever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified.

22 A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I the LORD will hasten it in his time.

- I have said the current working of God under the Dispensation of Grace is "contrary" to what had been prophesied for Israel's future blessing. While there are many differences (for example, heavenly blessings versus earthly in the 1000 year Kingdom, grace rather than Messiah's Law as a guide, etc.), one in particular is highlighted here in verses 12-14 of chapter 11. According to prophecy, God's elect nation of Israel (made up of believing Jews) would be saved, and then salvation in the Millennial Kingdom would be offered to the Gentiles and their nations.

But according to the Mystery revelation given to Paul for our dispensation of grace, it is quite different. Gentiles would be saved individually, without any national emphasis, and through their ministry to Jews, salvation would come to them through Gentiles, with no emphasis at all on a national identity. It is all personal today. The result today is identified in verse 5 of chapter 11: "a remnant according to the election of grace", the saved Jews

of our current dispensation.

This section defines the context of what immediately follows, often called the Olive Tree analogy. So it is most important to understand it. So the “Jews first” and all that that means is no longer our guideline today.

- This also has significant implications for how God is working today versus how he was working in that transitional period of the Acts period with signs and wonders and spiritual gifts given to Gentiles in the Corinthian church, for example. Indeed, so much has changed since Paul finished that transitional phase of his ministry. See chapter 13 of his first letter to the Corinthians and chapter 2 of 2 Thessalonians again to see the temporary nature of those “physical and spiritual” blessings that God had promised to Israel in a future time of his choosing. But they had been given to Gentiles, Paul writes.
- We will now reexamine the Olive Tree Analogy to gain further understanding of its meaning. For it is that important.

The Olive Tree Analogy:

- ***A Summary of the Meaning of the Olive Tree Teaching***

[READ] Romans 11:15-18

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?

16 For if the firstfruit [be] holy, the lump [is] also [holy]: and if the root [be] holy, so [are] the branches.

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 allusion is to Jeremiah 11:16-17]*

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

- So, what does the Olive Tree Analogy in Romans 11 signify? It signifies the blessings of God through the Seed of the Woman, and, as the plan of God ultimately (and dispensationally) develops, the “elect nation”, Israel, itself, will be reconstituted. It shall be “life from the dead” indeed, as verse 15 says. This is nothing like what we have today in the nation of Israel. For Israel is largely ungodly, whether that be Jews trying to live according to a law, Mosaic or otherwise, a minority, or the majority which is agnostic or atheist. And they are not “reigning” but under constant attack by the nations surrounding them.

Those spiritual blessings had been originally promised for mankind as God’s response to Adam and Eve’s rebellion, Genesis 3:15. Eventually, God, by divine and sovereign election (as taught in chapters 9-11), singled

out a holy nation, Israel, as the promised future recipient of those blessings. One by one the natural branches were broken off because of their unbelief. But God's original promises were unconditional, and therefore, though Israel would be judged for their national rebellion, God would someday sovereignly fulfill his plan of redemption for that nation using Gentile salvation as his fulcrum or tool! That later teaching is part of the Sacred Secret revelation given to our apostle, Paul, called a "mystery" here in the KJV.

- So the Gentiles were being blessed under grace as Israel should have been. For God's blessings had begun to flow due to their grafting into the trunk and the life-giving root. So then also the Jews could be blessed now also, IF they were provoked to jealousy, he writes here, and that through Gentile spiritual blessings under grace and not law.
- Also, take note that the root is mentioned and the trunk of the tree in several verses. Some branches are broken off while others are grafted into the root and trunk from which the life of the tree flows into the branches. Those branches were broken off in Israel's history, the northern kingdom being a prime example. Later under Assyria and then Babylon, other breaks occurred. Then, after some interruptions to that setting aside and finally the Pentecostal ministry of the Holy Spirit, the remaining branch in Palestine was broken off in A.D. 70. Finally, under Paul's administration during the transition period recorded in the Acts, the budding branches dispersed in Gentile lands were broken off, with Rome being the last, as Acts 28:25-28 indicates, quoting Isaiah 6:9-10.

This is extremely important. For it says here that believing Gentiles were grafted into the trunk as they also had been. It never says Gentiles were grafted into them as if the Body of Christ had been grafted into Israel and therefore should become "more Jewish" [*more Mosaic or even more Messianic*], but rather both have been grafted into the same living root and trunk in God's good and providential timing.

Our Outline Today: The Olive Tree and Its Consequences Dispensationally

The Olive Tree Analogy:

- Its Dispensational Significance by Divine Election Explained
- A Somber Exhortation Is Given for All Believers Under Grace

The Olive Tree Analogy:

I. Its Dispensational Significance by Divine Election Explained:

- What we are learning here is that the sovereignty of God must be acknowledged when considering his workings, always. In God's good timing (of course, always!) Israel's "branches" were broken off. They are

no longer connected to the life-giving trunk and root of the tree of faith. Rather, Gentile “branches” are connected.

- Paul here is not speaking, it seems here, of individual and personal salvation (though that is a related subject we should address) but of the blessings of God’s direct working or lack of such within groups, even such a large group ultimately, even collectively of the Jews themselves, or later, of the Body of Christ).

Romans 11:19-24

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, [take heed] lest he also spare not thee.

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.

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

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?

- Verse 19: The boasting by the Gentiles is something that should be avoided, Paul writes. If any boasts about his status before God, he is boasting based on carnal qualifications. When Paul boasted, he boasted in his “infirmities” and weaknesses, therefore. We should do the same.
- Verses 20 - 24: The reality of nature considering the Olive Tree and its horticulture is known from ancient times. Lucius Junius Moderatus Columella, a Roman writer writing about olive tree cultivation, in about A.D. 40 wrote a book entitled “Agriculture, Gardening, and Trees” in which this very issue is covered. So it was known of in the time of the Apostle Paul. And it must have been widely known for Paul to have chosen this analogy here to communicate this important concept.
- Verse 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.” Again, God in his sovereignty according to divine choice, and election, manifests himself in human history.
- Verse 23: “God is able to graft them in again”, just like he did in Israel’s long history, is a sobering thought. And he shall indeed do just that. But isn’t it wonderful? It seems here that Paul is laying a foundation of

understanding since false teachers were probably already teaching that the church had replaced Israel.

But the apostle says **absolutely not**. This setting aside was only temporary, even though it would last as it turned out, nearly 2000 years.

- That false teaching, so common today, totally confuses Prophecy with the Mystery and Israel with the Church. The error comes, of course, from failing to Rightly Divide the Word of Truth!
- So this is all about the dispensational plan of God for his people Israel and how their setting aside has opened the way for the dispensation of the grace of God. This is not directly about gaining and losing personal salvation, of course, although these verses are considered "difficult" by many and used by others to support the view that one may lose one's salvation. I hope Paul's meaning here is beginning to be clear.
- So God was even using the Gentiles to provoke Israel to faith and apart from works through the gospel he preached, "for by grace ye are saved, through faith ... not of works":

Romans 11:14 If by any means I may provoke to emulation [them which are] my flesh, and might save some of them.

- This brings us to a most important section of scripture. The whole concept of jealousy and how God might use it is before us here. I believe Romans 15 has the key to understanding it. There Paul distinguishes carnal things from spiritual. That teaching deserves our special focus, and Lord willing it will be our subject next time.
- But Paul continues here with a somber exhortation for the Body of Christ. Though divine election is operating to bring forward the dispensational plan of the ages, stage by stage, nevertheless we are still responsible, he writes, to bear fruit:

The Olive Tree Analogy:

II. An Somber Exhortation for All Believers Under Grace: A Somber Exhortation for All Believers Under Grace:

- Paul exhorts us, Gentile believers, very strongly here. He even writes in verses 19 - 24 that we have no basis for pride or haughtiness since Israel has been set aside and we, by faith, have been exalted in the redemptive plan according to the revelation of the Mystery through Paul. In fact,

[READ] Romans 11:22-23

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.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God can graff them in again.

- This brings up an important issue: Although the dispensation of the Law failed and so did the Pentecostal dispensation as we have clearly seen in our studies here, God remains faithful no matter what man's unfaithfulness may prove. **Every dispensation in fact does fail, even ours. For every dispensation defines a test, and mankind can never obey a test perfectly. So every dispensation fails due to disobedience.** So be it.

Even our dispensation will fail. Is that not so evident today? The uniqueness of the pure grace of God and the gospel of the grace of God is increasingly rare in the teaching and preaching of our day. The seminaries do not teach it, and the pastors for the most part do not even know it.

Paul was not positive in his final statements, was he? See 2 Timothy 3:1 (which is about the churches, of course, since the world was always this corrupt) and also the following verses from chapter 4:

[READ] 2 Timothy 4:3-4

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

- Under our dispensation of the grace of God, the test is whether we will rely on God's unlimited grace or turn aside to law works, etc. The end of the Olive Tree parable reflects this profound truth in verses 21-24 here in chapter 11 of the Romans.
- So our exhortation today to you is simple, yet powerful: Be faithful to the Pauline revelation of God's abundant grace. Unity and increased numbers gained through compromise are not only not important — it is in fact evil. We must not compromise the faith delivered through Paul to the Body Church and teachings concerning the Dispensation of the Grace of God. Let us hold fast until the end, and we hear his call, the shout and the voice of the archangel and are caught up into heaven's glory. Then shall God again continue to fulfill Israel's promises exactly as they were written. Amen and amen.

- And, if we would comprehend Paul's teaching properly, we would be able to conclude that **when our branch is broken off we shall be raptured gloriously into our heavenly inheritance.** Only then will the Lord God return to his eternal purpose for the Jews and create an elect nation that will inherit the promises held now in abeyance.
- The exhortation of the apostle is simple therefore:

Romans 11:25-27

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.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

27 For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

- So we reach our conclusion for today. As our apostle states it here, "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this [is] my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."

There is indeed a future for God's elect nation, Israel. His Kingdom shall be established, and his people shall inherit it as promised.

But oh, the glory of our abundant grace today, fully apart from Israel's covenants and promises, and apart from all works of righteousness and every "legal" requirement, we stand in awe of the glory of God "in the face of Jesus Christ".

Enjoy our Lord, his presence and his grace. Amen and amen.