

# Paul's letter to the church at Rome

## Romans

*Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

### **The plan of God for the Israelites and Gentiles (9:1-11:36)**

- 11:1-10...Israel's status with God, as a conclusion to chapters 9 and 10
  - What's the status of Israel? Is God now only focused on Gentiles?
  - 11:1-6...the remnant of Jews
    - Did God reject (Greek is to 'push away, repel') His people? NO.
    - God "foreknew" that there would be a select number of Jews who would maintain their faith in Him. They were "chosen" because of their faith in Christ (the same for ALL Christians)
  - 11:7-10...what Israel sought to attain (righteousness before God through keeping the law), it did not attain.
    - The "others" (Pharisees, Sadducees, etc) were hardened in their heart toward God (stupor: dulled by incitement)
- 11:11-15...did the Jews stumble so far that they've fallen and cannot get back up? NO. Their stumbling is temporary as a means of benefit for the Gentiles.
  - God wants the Jews to become jealous of the Gentiles being part of the covenant, so maybe the Jews will want to return to God
  - The temporary stumbling of the Jews will have 2 positive outcomes (discussed in the rest of chapter 11)
    1. The conversion of Gentiles
    2. The ultimate salvation of the Jews
- 11:13-14...Gentiles ("I'm speaking to you") need to be grateful to the Jews because the covenant has been extended to Gentiles
- 11:15...there is an ultimate spiritual resurrection of the Jews that will follow their national conversion
- 11:16-24...Gentiles being grafted into the covenant (root, stalk, and tree) (see next 2 slides)
  - V:16...see Numbers 15:18-21. If the first part of the dough is 'holy', then so is the rest of the dough
  - Abraham is the root, the Jews are the stalk, and the Gentiles are the branches that are grafted in



*An olive grove on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem*

- 11:17-24
  - Root: Abraham and the patriarchs
  - Stalk: Jews (as spiritual children)...remember 9:6
  - Wild branches: Gentiles
  - The "wild olive tree" doesn't bear fruit
  - The common practice would be to take a healthy branch from a good olive tree and graft it onto the wild olive tree in hopes of causing fruit to come to the wild tree, but God instead grafts the Gentiles directly into the Abrahamic covenant tree!
  - Ancient practice of grafting a wild branch into an old tree to try to reinvigorate the tree; the "wild" branch seldom produced fruit as good as the "natural" branch
- 11:17-24
  - V.18...how can the wild branch (Gentiles) glory over the natural branch??
  - V.19-21...wrong attitude from Gentiles is cautioned
  - V.22-23...remaining attached to the tree is conditioned on faith (this is a broad statement regarding Jews and Gentiles, and is not a statement about losing individual salvation)

- V.24...Gentiles are "wild" by nature, and are not naturally supposed to be part of the good tree. God is certainly willing to graft the Jews into the tree again.
- 11:25-29...the Jews' status with God
  - The Jews hearts were hardened by unbelief (see Mark 3:1-5 for an example of a hardened heart).
  - The Gentiles gained by being grafted in, partly to cause a healthy jealousy with the Jews
  - After the Gentile world has generally come to Christ, the Jewish nation will experience revival and will return to God...the Messiah Jesus Christ. Isaiah 59:20,21
  - V.29...God doesn't regret making His covenants, and He fully intends to keep His word
  - V.30...God's plan is to have mercy on all who believe
  - V.33-36...astounded by the grace and goodness of God; His control of creation, redemption, and providence