

# God, Israel, The Messiah, and the Gospel of Christ – part 6

Romans 11:1-15 - 08/30/2015

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Let's Recap what we've learn in that Last few weeks: ...

1. God has Compassion and Love toward Israel, and **so should we**... we should pray for them to come to their Messiah and be saved ... see Romans 9:1-5 & Romans 10:1-4
2. God is Sovereign in His Election/Choosing of Israel to be His Chosen People.  
God is the owner of the Universe, it is His Universe, He is the King  
His purpose of choosing Israel was so that the Gentile Nations can be saved through Israel, really, through their Messiah (the Christ → Jesus Christ)
3. Gentiles were being saved while a **majority of Israel was not being saved. Why?**  
The Gentiles were receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ by Faith, whereas Israel was sticking to its traditions, its rituals, **its own way** of establishing her own righteousness instead of submitting to God's Righteousness fully revealed in Christ Jesus

**Romans 9:30-33:** <sup>30</sup>What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; <sup>31</sup>but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. <sup>32</sup>Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. <sup>33</sup>As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame (not be disappointed)."

**Romans 10:1-4:** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God **for Israel** is that they may be **saved**. <sup>2</sup>For I bear them witness that **they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge**. <sup>3</sup>For they being ignorant of **God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God**. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

4. There are a few overarching Principles that God is following in regards to the relationship of Israel to the Gospel of Christ:
  - a. **God keeps His Promises**, His Covenant, and He is Faithful.  
God is **NOT** Capricious or Arbitrary  
He deals with Israel based upon His Covenant(s), based upon His Revealed Word
  - b. **God Opposes the Proud, but Gives Grace to the Humble** (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5 and other passages that describe this same principle in the O.T.)
  - c. **God punishes sinners after they commit the crime, not before**  
(as in the case of Pharaoh and of Israel, etc...)
  - d. **God's Goal is Salvation of the lost, lost Israelis and Gentiles, both.**  
God does not want to send anyone to the Lake of Fire (to hell) ...  
He will send unrepentant sinners to hell, only because He is Just, Holy, and Righteous  
But, His Love was the Motivation of sending Jesus Christ, the Messiah as Savior
  - e. **Humans are not unthinking Robots** ... we are sinners in need of salvation that God has categories for ... such as "the Wicked" and "the Elect", etc.

Let's start with last week's few last verses

**ROMANS 10:19-21** (speaking of the coming New Covenant, the Gospel ... )

But I say, did Israel not know? First Moses says:

"I will provoke you to jealousy by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

<sup>20</sup> But Isaiah is very bold and says:

"I was found by those who did not seek Me; I was made manifest to those who did not ask for Me."

<sup>21</sup> But to Israel he says:

"**ALL DAY LONG** I have **STRETCHED OUT** My hands to a **DISOBEDIENT** and contrary people."

**No Hint that God has Abandoned Israel ...**

**ROMANS 11:1-36**

I say then, has God cast away (i.e. abandoned) His people? **CERTAINLY NOT!** For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup> God has **NOT** cast away His people **whom He foreknew**. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, <sup>3</sup> "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? <sup>4</sup> But what does the divine response say to him? "I have **RESERVED** for Myself seven thousand men who have **NOT** bowed the knee to Baal." <sup>5</sup> Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant **ACCORDING TO THE ELECTION OF GRACE**. <sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then it is **no longer of works**; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. <sup>7</sup> What then? Israel has **NOT** obtained what it seeks; but **the elect have obtained it**, and the rest were blinded. <sup>8</sup> Just as it is written: "God has given them a spirit of stupor, eyes that they should not see and ears that they should not hear, to this very day."

<sup>9</sup> And David says: "Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them. <sup>10</sup> Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always." <sup>11</sup> I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? **CERTAINLY NOT!** But through **THEIR FALL**, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. <sup>12</sup> Now if their **FALL** is riches for the world, and their **FAILURE** riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

<sup>13</sup> For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, <sup>14</sup> if by any means I may **PROVOKE TO JEALOUSY** those who are my flesh and **SAVE SOME OF THEM**. <sup>15</sup> For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but **LIFE FROM THE DEAD?**

➔ God's Sovereignty, His Mercy, His Aim ... for Israel is their Salvation ... He's **NOT** forgot about them Nor has He Abandoned them. Again, who were the Apostles, and the writers of the New Testament? They were all Israelis, all Jews from Israel.

< **show the Video** ➔

Jewish Mike Cohen tried wrapping leather straps on his arm in order to find God, but all he found was guilt. He kept using Judaism as a kryptonite to keep Jesus away. Until one day he realized that Jesus is real – the Messiah of Israel ➔ <https://youtu.be/TDJel52-Uzg> >

Thus we see that God is still reaching Jewish People, Israelis, descendants of Jacob, today.

All that Paul has been teaching up to this point and explaining about Israel in chapters 9 thru 11 comes down to this

→ **Don't Become Arrogant or Boast against the original branches of the Olive Tree ...**

1. Gentiles (branched from wild olive trees) have been GRAFTED into the Domesticated Olive Tree (illustration) – verses 16 -24

**<sup>16</sup>For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. <sup>17</sup>And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, <sup>18</sup>DO NOT BOAST AGAINST THE BRANCHES. But if you do boast, REMEMBER THAT YOU DO NOT SUPPORT THE ROOT, BUT THE ROOT SUPPORTS YOU.**

Paul is using the FirstFruit, the Lump, the Root, and the Branches ... as the basis for the multiple illustrations used in the Old Testament relating to Israel herself. Those were all symbolic of Israel, used by God through His Prophets. Then, Paul focuses in on Branches ... so Roots, Trees and Branches. The Lump seems to represent the Bread Dough that is used for the Holy Unleavened Bread of the Presence used in Temple worship, dedicated and Holy. **Israel is that which is Holy**, because God has set her apart, as His Chosen People. They are dedicated completely for His use. This is still true. Gentiles are being grafted into His People. The Olive Tree Represent God's Covenant Relationship with His People ... His Covering, His Blessings, Relationship with Him, etc... in this case His New Covenant in the Messiah.

Followers of Jesus Christ are, now, considered to be **His People**. This does **not** mean that Gentiles being "grafted in" get some land parcels in Israel, as well. The Land Promises relates, specifically to the genetic descendants of Israel, etc.

**We are being GRAFTED IN by God ...** into that which is **not** by nature what we are (we are as if we are **Wild Olive Branches**). This Grafting changes the Branches → this is symbolic for the Change God wants us to experience in Christ → Bearing His Fruit → Olives produce Olive Oil ... which is symbolic of the Holy Spirit ... the symbolism relates to Fruitfulness and being God's Light to the world of darkness (olive oil is the fuel for the Menorah in the Temple). So, being Grafted IN, those new foreign branches are being affected by the Trunk, Roots, Sap, etc...

2. **What supports the Branches?** The Tree Trunk, the Root, the Sap, the Water coming up from the Roots, the nutrients coming up from the roots ...

**<sup>18</sup>DO NOT BOAST AGAINST THE BRANCHES. But if you do boast, REMEMBER THAT YOU DO NOT SUPPORT THE ROOT, BUT THE ROOT SUPPORTS YOU.**

What does this represent?

God, His Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ Himself, God's Holy Word (written)

God's Word is written by Israelis, led by God's Spirit ...

Fatness of the Root and of the Olive Tree...

All the Heritage of God's Word, what is written in His Word ...

When we reject the Heritage of God's Word, God's People, of Israel, etc...

we are being **ARROGANT** and **BOASTFUL** ... saying that our ways are better.

This is a real warning to the church of Rome that failed to listen to this warning and became the Roman Catholic church and persecuted the Jews viciously other the years. Hitler justified his persecution of the Jews based upon anti-Semitic Roman Catholic and some very anti-Semitic writings of Martin Luther, as well. The Justification of persecuting, slaughtering Jews, making Jews second class citizen in many European

countries was all based upon the Roman Catholic church's views that were fully not Biblical and definitely deaf to these 3 chapters (Romans 9-11) ...

**DO NOT BE ARROGANT nor BOAST against the Israeli Branches ...** The ROOT SUPPORTS YOU ... the Israeli, Hebrew Roots of the Old Testament supports the New Testament / New Covenant church of Jesus Christ. **REMEMBER THIS.** Treat Israelis and Jews as if they were Jesus Christ's own brothers, relatives. View them that way, and we will treat them the way God wants us to treat them.

3. **Why was Israel, as a nation, taken off the Olive tree** (the branches broken off)? verses 19-24 - <sup>19</sup>You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."<sup>20</sup> Well said. Because of **UNBELIEF** they were broken off, and you stand by faith. **DO NOT BE HAUGHTY, BUT FEAR.** <sup>21</sup>For if God did not spare the natural branches, He **MAY** not spare you either. <sup>22</sup>Therefore consider the **GOODNESS** and **SEVERITY** of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be **CUT OFF.** <sup>23</sup>And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup>For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

**Unbelief** is what caused Israel's "national" branches to be broken off ...

It was **UNBELIEF in Jesus Christ**, Yeshua h'Maschiach, the Messiah of Israel, that got Israel's branches broken off of their own Olive Tree. Remember, not all Israelis failed to Believe and Follow Jesus Christ. Some did follow Jesus, but, to God, not enough to keep their Branches on that Olive Tree.

I am not sure how many believers of a certain nation have to be saved in any generation period of time for their national branches to be grafted into this Olive Tree. There must be a certain number.

Remember, Paul is just using this as an illustration, symbolism to help illustrate the real conceptual truth that it represents.

4. **BELIEF is what Gets Nations (Gentiles) Grafted onto the Olive Tree.** We know, for these verses, that God is focused on their **TRUST in Him**. If they do not Believe In Him, but instead seek to use their own works, their own religions ... etc... they are not grafted into that Olive Tree ...
- Remember, the Olive Tree Represents God's Covenant Promises, Relationship with God in the Messiah, etc. It also represents God's Faithfulness, His Blessings, Heritage, and the Eternal Future of God's Kingdom, as well. It represents all of that.

<sup>19</sup>You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."

<sup>20</sup>Well said. Because of **UNBELIEF** they were broken off, and you **STAND BY FAITH. DO NOT BE HAUGHTY, BUT FEAR.** <sup>21</sup>For if God did not spare the natural branches, He **MAY** not spare you either. <sup>22</sup>Therefore consider the **GOODNESS** and **SEVERITY** of God: on those who fell, **SEVERITY**; but toward you, **GOODNESS**, if you **CONTINUE** in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be **CUT OFF.** <sup>23</sup>And **THEY** also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be **GRAFTED IN**,

for God is able to graft them in again. <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is **WILD** by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

The illustration here is focused on **Nations, People Groups, Tribes**, etc... **NOT** individuals. God is not talking about individual believers in Christ losing their salvation. He is talking about "Branches" being Grafted In, or being Broken off... and those Branches represent Nations, People Groups, Tribes, etc...

So, when a People Group starts to come to Christ and for years have built a heritage in Christ ... their Branch is grafted into the Olive Tree ... but when that People Group, nationally, as a majority, Reject Jesus Christ, just like Israel did ... their Branch is broken off. **That is what is meant here.**

**ACTION:** Thus, if we love the People Group we are a part of, we want to make sure we continue to Preach and Teach God's Word and seek to always increase the making of Disciples of Jesus Christ from Generation to Generation as our Highest Priority ... otherwise, if we wane in our duties regarding Preaching, Teaching, and Defending our Faith in Christ ... we may lose our Branch in one generation (just like what we are seeing today in the USA and the Western World)

5. Prophetically – Paul is being a Prophet of God in this Passage ... pointing to a day when **ALL** of Israel will be saved ...

<sup>23</sup> And **THEY** (Israel) also, if they **DO NOT** continue in **UNBELIEF**, will be **GRAFTED IN**, for God is **ABLE** to graft them in **AGAIN**. <sup>24</sup> For if you (Gentiles) were cut out of the olive tree which is **WILD** by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, **HOW MUCH MORE** will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

<sup>25</sup> For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; <sup>27</sup> For this is My **COVENANT** with them, when I take away their sins."

<sup>28</sup> Concerning the **GOSPEL** they are enemies for your sake, but concerning **THE ELECTION** they are **BELOVED** for the **SAKE OF THE FATHERS**. <sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. <sup>30</sup> For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have **NOW** obtained mercy through their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> even so these also have now been disobedient, that **THROUGH THE MERCY SHOWN YOU** they also may obtain mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might **HAVE MERCY ON ALL**.

<sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!

<sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has become His counselor?" <sup>35</sup> "Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?"

<sup>36</sup> For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

**Why is this important to us?**

**God Opposes the PROUD, but He Gives Grace to the Humble.** (James 4:6)

Arrogance is the Opposite of Humility. We need an **Attitude of Gratitude**.

Paul focuses the entire 3 chapters on helping us be HUMBLE ... regarding God's Relationship with Israel and how God has showered His Grace on us, Gentiles.

God's way of Salvation is Receiving God's Grace through Jesus Christ by Faith.

Personal, Child-Like, Humble Trust in God's Provision of Salvation thru Jesus.

Arrogance → challenges, denigrates, compares, puts down others, dismisses others.

**<sup>30</sup> For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have NOW obtained mercy through their disobedience, <sup>31</sup> even so these also have now been disobedient, that THROUGH THE MERCY SHOWN YOU they also may obtain mercy. <sup>32</sup> For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might HAVE MERCY ON ALL.**

What is God saying here... ?

God will use the massive amount of Gentiles who've come to Faith in Christ ... Faith in the God of Israel ... Provoking Israel to Jealousy ... that Impact will some day cause Israel to be saved. → **that THROUGH THE MERCY SHOWN YOU (Gentiles) they (Israel) also may obtain mercy.** God will use the Heritage of the Gospel among the Nations (Gentiles) to cause all of Israel to be saved, someday in the future.

After the Fullness of the Gentiles have come in ... (Romans 10:25)

That means ... the Fullness of the Gentile Nations reached with the Gospel of Christ ... when at least some amount of Disciples have been made among every people, nation, tongue, and tribe .. **then** God will pour out His Grace upon Israel and start working with Israel ... (see Revelation 7 and onward ...) and All Israel will be saved. This will happen during the 7 Year Great Tribulation ...

**Zechariah 12:10-11** "And I will pour on the house of **David** and on the inhabitants of **Jerusalem** the Spirit of Grace and Supplication; then they will look on **Me whom they pierced**. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his **Only Son**, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a **firstborn**. <sup>11</sup> In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem . . ."

That will be the day when they realize that Jesus of Nazareth, 2000 years ago actually was their Messiah, and they rejected Him back then. But, when Zechariah 12:10 occurs ... on that Day, nationally they will recognize Jesus Christ, Yeshua, as their Messiah and They will Call upon the Name of the LORD and God will save them, as a Nation. All Israel will be Saved.