

The Future of Israel

Key Scriptures

Romans 11:15-32 ¹⁵ For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. ¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in." ²⁰ Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.

²¹ For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. ²² 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. ²³ And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. ²⁴ 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?

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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;

²⁷ For this is My covenant with them, When I take away their sins."

²⁸ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers.

²⁹ For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. . .

Key Point: Salvation is entirely a work of God.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- On a scale of 1-10, when it comes to plants and gardening, how green is your thumb? (Feel free to share stories) Have you ever done any transplanting or grafting?

Start thinking. Ask questions to get your group thinking.

- How would you explain how the grafting illustration fits with the argument that Paul is making?
- (v.17-24) How does the olive tree metaphor warn the Gentiles? How does it square with what Paul said in 8:28-38 about the certainty of our salvation?
- (v. 25-32) What is the 'mystery' Paul now reveals? Why does God want His Gentile readers to be aware of His plan?
- In v. 29, what is the context that the gifts and calling of God are referring to? How does this verse apply to us today?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Kyle shared a brief story in how someone "provoked him to jealousy" (v. 11, 14), with how they lived for the Lord. Have you ever had an experience like that?
- Since God saves all by his mercy, what role should mercy play in the life of the Christian? How do we decide whether justice (i.e., getting what an offender deserves) or mercy (i.e., not getting what is deserved) is appropriate in a given situation?

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- How many non-Christians do you know (at work, school, neighborhood)? This week, make a decision to go out of your way to interact with them, showing and speaking of the gospel as best as you can.

Prayer Requests. It may be helpful to pray the scriptures back to God.

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