

**"God's Relationship with Israel"**

**Romans 9-11**

**Part 24**

**Introduction:** Tonight, as we come back to our study of Romans we have now come to a very interesting passage of Scripture. Paul is using his pen under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to help us to see how important the salvation of Israel is and to show us that God has not cast Israel away. They have been set aside as a nation while God gathers a people for His name from among the Gentiles, but He will bring Israel back to the forefront in the Tribulation and He will work with them again. Last week we looked at how important it is for Israel to be saved.

**Notice Romans 11:11-15**

The resurrection of the tribulation saints and the Old Testament saints depend upon the fulness of Israel or the salvation of Israel. The Kingdom also depends upon the salvation of Israel. Therefore, if God is going to be true to His Word then Israel must be saved, and this then helps us to understand that God has not cast Israel away nor has Israel fallen into ruination.

Now as we move on tonight in our study, we shall see two illustrations given by Paul to again help us to see how God is working His plan with Israel and the Gentiles.

**"God's Relationship with Israel in the Future"**

**Part 5**

**Notice Romans 11:16**

There are two illustrations here that are very important for us to understand.

**1. The Firstfruits**

In this illustration Paul is thinking back to the heave offering in Numbers 15.

**Numbers 15:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup> Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, When ye come into the land whither I bring you,*

*<sup>19</sup> Then it shall be, that, when ye eat of the bread of the land, ye shall offer up an heave offering unto the LORD.*

*<sup>20</sup> 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.*

*<sup>21</sup> Of the first of your dough ye shall give unto the LORD an heave offering in your generations.*

The "heave offering" was one of the common sacrifices offered to the Lord. The "heave offering" was offered in an up and down motion and the "wave offering" was offered in a side to side motion. Here in Numbers 15 Israel was told that when they came into the land of Canaan and they harvested the first of the wheat and they made the dough for bread they were to take from the firstfruits of the dough and offer a cake of dough from the lump as an heave offering.

**Notice Romans 11:16a again.**

The firstfruits that were offered to God were HOLY meaning they were set apart for Him. Paul now references the bread dough and he tells his readers that if the firstfruits of the dough is HOLY then the entire lump would be Holy because it is all connected.

## 2. The Olive Tree

**Notice Romans 11:16**

Here in the second part of the verse Paul points to the olive tree to make the same point. If the root of the olive tree is holy then the branches would also be holy. Paul is going to continue with the illustration of the olive tree as we continue, but before we move on, we need to know what the firstfruits and the root represent in these two illustrations.

Some teach that the firstfruits and the root is the Abrahamic Covenant and there are others who believe they are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. I believe they represent Abraham and we shall see this as we move on in these verses. Abraham was holy in the sense that he was called and set apart for God and all who came from him seed through the line of Isaac and Jacob are also holy for they are the Nation of Israel and they have been set apart (holy) for God.

Now, before we move on to the next verse let me explain what the olive tree represents. It does NOT represent Israel as we shall see. But it represents the place of blessing or the place of Divine privilege.

**Notice Romans 11:17**

Here we see that some of the branches were broken off and the branches from a wild olive tree were grafted in. The idea here is that God is the Husbandman/Gardener and He has spent much time cultivating His own olive tree. The picture is that in the Old

Testament God had worked with Israel for hundreds of years. Then there was a wild olive tree that grew up in the garden. So, God took some of the branches from the wild olive tree and He grafted them onto the cultivated olive tree and the wild branches then received the fatness of the root.

Now let me explain the picture here so that you can understand what Paul is teaching us. Israel was in the place of blessing which was the cultivated olive tree. But many of the Jews refused to accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah so they are like the broken branches. They have been broken off. The wild olive tree is the Gentiles. Before salvation we certainly were not in any place of blessing. But when we accepted Jesus Christ as Savior God grafted us in. Now because of the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross we have been grafted into the place of privilege and blessing. This all connects with what we have been studying in Ephesians.

**Ephesians 2:11-16**

*<sup>11</sup> Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;*

*<sup>12</sup> 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:*

*<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

*<sup>14</sup> For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

*<sup>15</sup> Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

*<sup>16</sup> And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:*

We also looked at our place of blessing in Romans 9.

**Romans 9:30-32**

*<sup>30</sup> What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith.*

<sup>31</sup> *But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.*

<sup>32</sup> *Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;*

Let us again understand that this olive tree is NOT the Nation of Israel. We do not become Jews when we get saved for in Jesus Christ there is neither Jew nor Greek.

**Galatians 3:27-28**

<sup>27</sup> *For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.*

<sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Now let me show you how the olive tree is the place of privilege and blessing.

**Genesis 12:1-3**

*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:*

<sup>2</sup> *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;*

<sup>3</sup> *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Under the Abrahamic Covenant God promised that through Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed. Now let me show you what happened when you were saved.

**Galatians 3:13-14, 28-29**

<sup>13</sup> *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*

<sup>14</sup> **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;**  
*that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*

<sup>28</sup> *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

<sup>29</sup> *And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and **heirs according to the promise.***

Because we have been grafted in, we are now in the place of privilege and blessings and now we receive the blessings of Abraham in that we receive salvation and His righteousness. But there is more. Because we have been grafted into the olive tree, we now receive the spiritual blessings of the New Covenant.

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

<sup>31</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

<sup>32</sup> Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

<sup>33</sup> But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

<sup>34</sup> And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Because the root (Abraham) is holy so are the branches holy. Even us who have been grafted in because now we receive the fatness from the root.

Now let us notice Paul's warnings to the Gentiles.

**Notice Romans 11:18-22**

Paul warns the Gentiles about boasting against the branches that have been broken off. The idea here is that the Gentiles are not to look down upon the broken branches. It needs to be known that the broken branches are still holy in the sense that they are set apart as the Nation of Israel. The Gentiles were not to think they had been grafted in because they were special for it was only by grace through faith in the finished work of Jesus which enabled them to be grafted in.

The natural branches were broken of because of unbelief. Paul then warns that if God spared not the natural branches, He may not spare the Gentiles.

Now many have seen this as saying that we can lose our salvation but that is a Biblical impossibility so this must have another meaning.

This is a warning to the Gentiles who are mixed in with true believers who are not exercising faith in Jesus Christ just as the natural branches who also rejected Jesus Christ. These are people who think highly of themselves and are trusting in religion, or ceremonies, or rationalism, or human reasoning.

Let us notice the words of another teacher on this thought:

*"This warning has gone largely unheeded in the history of the church these last 2000 years as we have seen Gentiles who have thought that they could remain in the place of blessing apart from genuine faith in Christ (substituting in its place ritualism, religion, rationalism, etc.)."*

**Conclusion:**

**Notice Romans 11:22 again.**

The word "continue" means "ABIDE". This is a call to be sure you are saved. Make sure you are trusting in the finished work of Jesus Christ because if you are not you too will be CUT OFF. Evidence of true saving faith is to ABIDE in God's love and goodness because of a changed life.

**1 John 2:3-6**

<sup>3</sup> *And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.*

<sup>4</sup> *He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.*

<sup>5</sup> *But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.*

<sup>6</sup> *He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*