



Romans 11:16-24

Israel's Condition Explained – Part 2

A reminder of the 3 basic principles of
'the remnant'

1. The **physical remnant** – the continuity of the ethnic line of Israel and His promises to the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) – *Gen 12:1,2; Gen 26:24, 35; Gen 35:10-12*
2. The **spiritual remnant** – salvation is by faith, and thus God will always maintain or raise up a believing remnant within the physical remnant – *Rom 9:6,7*
3. **All Israel will be saved** – following the Great Tribulation, those who survive will be saved by faith – the 1000 year reign – *Zech 13:8,9.*



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- ***Rom 11:16 NKJV – “For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches.”***
 - Relate the *firstfruit to the lump* – both are described as *holy*?
 - *Firstfruit* - Could relate to items from the harvest brought before the Lord by the nation Israel, or bread (dough)
 - *Ex 23:19, Deut 26:10, Num 15:21*
 - *Lump* - the nation of Israel
 - After the promises of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob – the **physical remnant**
 - Consider *Rom 9:21* – ‘*Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?*’, and
 - *I Cor 5:6* – ‘*Your glorying [is] not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?*’
 - What about *the root and branches are holy*?
 - Moral quality or Israel being set apart?
 - Examine in context



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» *root* represents the source of life - and that life would be founded in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ

- ***Rom 11:17 NKJV – “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,”***
 - What/who are these *branches* that have *been broken off*?
 - *Branches* – literally a young tender shoot
 - In context, the posterity of the Jewish patriarchs
 - » **Notice *some* (not all) - those who did not believe!**
 - And ‘*you, a wild olive tree grafted in among them to partake?*’
 - Gentiles, but conditional
 - What does it mean ‘*became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree*’?
 - » OT parable of the trees, Jotham at Shechem - *Judges 9:9 ‘But the olive tree said unto them, Should I leave my fatness wherewith by me they honor God and man, and go to be promoted over the trees?’*



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- *Rom 11:18,19 NKJV - “do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. You will say then, Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in”*
 - *do not boast*, μὴ κατακαυχῶ μὴ makes this strong language, i.e. boasting is a forbidden act
 - *if (εἰ)* is conditional – *if you decide to boast*
 - **Why?**
 - Because the *you*, or the grafted branch does not give life - the **root (Christ)** is the life.
 - It is simply because of His great Grace that the believing Gentile has been grafted in!
 - *Gal 3:7 ‘Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.’*



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– *Gal 3:14 'That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.'*

- ***Rom 11:20 NKJV – “Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear.”***

– The dividing line



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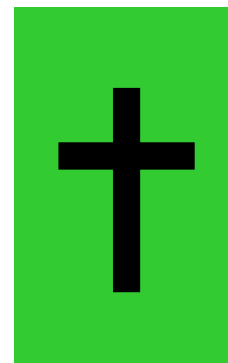
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– The dividing line

Unbelief →



Faith →

- *Haughty* – high-minded or proud
- The opposite of fear or reverence



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- ***Rom 11:21 NKVJ – “For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.”***
 - *spare* – literally ‘keep back’
 - Consider and identify with *Rom 8:32 ‘He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?’*
 - Why the uncertainty about God not sparing you either?
 - Is it the apostate church to follow?
 - *Rev 3:14-16 ‘And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.’*
 - *Jude 1:5 ‘I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not.’*
 - George Gill – *‘Some churches will meet on the Sunday morning after the rapture, and they won’t miss a member.’*



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- ***Rom 11:22 NKJV - “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.”***
 - *God’s goodness* we know, or do we really?
 - But, what about *His severity*?
 - ἀποτομίαν - from the base of ἀποτομία; (figurative) *decisiveness*, i.e. *rigor*
 - » Only NT use
 - Not only the unbelief of both Jews and Gentiles but for Israel as a nation, did Paul really anticipate the events of 70 AD that were yet to follow?
 - *if you continue in His goodness*
 - *if* or ἐάν, a *conditional* particle; often used in connection with other particles to denote *indefiniteness* or *uncertainty*



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- What does continuing in His goodness mean to you?
 - to persevere, continue, abide
 - How was this initiated?
 - And how is this accomplished?
 - Let's not look horizontally here!
- The threat – *‘Otherwise you also will be cut off.’*
 - Who is *you*?
 - Does it talk about the body or the individual?
 - » 2nd person, singular
 - » But, could it mean the ‘church’?
 - What about *cut off*?
 - Literally – cut down or spare life
 - » *Luke 13:7-9 ‘Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumberst thou the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung [it]: And if it bear fruit, [well]: and if not, [then] after that thou shall cut it down.’*



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- ***Rom 11:23 NKJV – “And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.”***
 - The key word here is ‘*again*’ – let’s read *Jer 23:3-8*
 - *Zech 12:10 – ‘And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for [his] only [son], and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for [his] firstborn.’*
 - Why *if* or *ἐάν*, the *conditional* particle?
 - I thought that this was a fact?
 - Yet still, the *abiding in unbelief* must become historic.
- ***Rom 11:24 NKJV – “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?”***



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- Remember:
 - the olive tree is rooted in the Israel of the patriarchs by faith
 - some of the branches were cut off and the nation rejected
 - God grafted in the Gentile (wild olive tree) believers
 - Included the Jews who believed
 - For the Gentile, the purpose is not to make Israelites out of Gentiles
 - God remains more than capable of grafting these branches in again
- Distinguish ‘*into a good olive tree*’ vs. ‘*their own olive tree*’ – is there really a difference?
- And to whom is Paul speaking here?
 - *Rom 11:13 – ‘For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:’*