

ROMANS 11:13-25 ADVICE TO GENTLE BELIEVERS ABOUT ISRAEL AND GOD'S SOVEREIGN PLAN

Review: Paul's big point in Romans 11 is that God is not through with corporate-national-ethnic Israel. Her judicial hardness and negative mentality relative to Messiah (Jesus Christ) is temporal, not permanent (11:25).

God explains His logic and motivation to Gentile believers in 11:11, 12 (paraphrased):

“Therefore, I say: Have Israelites stumbled that they have fallen irreparably? Impossible: rather that through their transgression (blunder) salvation has come to the Gentiles in order to make them jealous. Now if Israel's transgression (blunder) in this regard results in the enriching of the world of mankind and Israel's loss spiritually results in the enrichment of Gentiles **THINK WHAT ISRAEL'S *FULLNESS WILL MEAN!**”

- *WHAT is the FULLNESS of Israel?
 - in context, it is contrasted with the _____, v. 5.
 - in context, it is compared with the _____ of _____, v. 25.
 - THE PREDICTED _____ KINGDOM IS IN VIEW! v. 26-29.
- *WHEN? v. 25, not until the _____ of the _____ comes in. How logical!

11:13-21 Warning to Gentiles About Destructive Pride

- v. 13** “for” = “but,”: Paul is not stating a reason, rather a transition directed to Gentile believers.
“Gentiles” = in distinction to Jews: Gentile believers were in the vast majority in the church at Rome.
- v. 14** (All “if” clauses in v. 14, 15 are first class condition.) Note Paul's desire to see _____ Jews saved even if motivated by jealousy.
- v. 15** Paul argues that if the _____ of Israel meant reconciliation to the rest of the world, then their _____ would be like a resurrection of dead ones.

NOTE THREE DISPENSATIONAL EVENTS AFFIRMED IN VS. 12 AND 15

<u>v. 12</u>		<u>v. 15</u>
1) “the trespass (blunder) of Israel”	=	“the casting away of them”
2) “the riches of the world”	=	“the reconciliation of the world”
3) “the fullness of Israel”	=	“the receiving of them by God”

(OVER)

v. 16, 17 The Principle of Paul's Olive-Tree Metaphor Warning

1. THE PRINCIPLE

- *If the first fruit (grain) is **, _____, so is the product (the lump or loaf).
- *If the root is **, _____, so are its branches.

*"If" = fulfilled condition (first class condition): assumed true by writer

**"holy" = "set apart to God"

2. THE METAPHOR

Abraham and the Patriarchs	Israel (the nation from Abraham)
First fruit	Lump or loaf (believers only)
Root	Branches (believers only)

3. THE TEACHING

- Unbelieving Jews were branches broken off.
- Believing Gentiles were branches grafted in.

v. 18 Teaching: boasting is excluded by the fact that nourishment for the tree comes not from the _____, but from the _____.

v. 19-21 THE REAL ISSUE

- They were broken off because of _____.
 - You (Gentiles) were grafted in and stand by _____.
- THAT IS, YOU STAND NOT BY MERIT: AVOID CONCEIT. Highmindedness is the forerunner to stumbling.

11:22-24 Application of the Principle of the Rejection of Israel

v. 22, 23 Note the one condition that determines Israel's regrafting: _____!
In what? ANSWER:10:1-13, the _____ of _____ (Messiah)!

v. 25 Application to Gentile believers: DO NOT GET THE BIG HEAD. "Israel's _____ / _____ is _____ and is * _____.

* _____ the fullness of the Gentiles comes in.

*fullness = totality (the totality of saved Gentiles)

We must distinguish between:

THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES	THE TIMES OF THE GENTILES
Romans 11:25	Luke 21:24
- refers to the completion of God's taking out from the Gentiles a people for His name, Acts 15:14-18	- refers to a period of time when Gentiles exercise world-wide influence and control. Picture in Nebuchadnezzar's dream image in Dan. 2 (see attached).

Conclusion

The Gentiles in general have benefited by Israel's transgression: Gentile believers are now the focal point of God's blessings and mercies. Since this is all by His grace, Paul warns us not to be conceited and arrogant. One day, the last Gentile will get saved, and God's program for the historical process will again focus on Israel.