

Lesson Title: Ingrafted Branches
December 11, 2018
Romans 11:1-36 (Background Passage)
Romans 11:11-24 (Lesson Passage)

Theological Principle: We live because of God's kindness

Introduction:

- What is your favorite fruit? Why?
- What success have you had with gardening?

AS PAUL HAS NEATLY summarized the situation in [11:7](#), the preaching of the gospel has divided Israel into two groups: a minority (the "remnant"), who have obtained salvation, and the majority, who have been hardened. Paul now asks whether this situation is permanent. His basic answer? No, it is not. God's rejection of Israel is not his last word. He has brought about that rejection in order to further his plan for salvation history. This plan initially is bringing salvation to the Gentiles, but it ultimately is intended to "bounce back" and benefit Israel as well. This sequence of Jewish rejection → Gentile blessing → Jewish blessing again is at the heart of these verses.

Paul makes clear that the argument in these verses has a practical purpose. He scolds Gentile Christians in Rome for their arrogant boasting over the Jews ([vv. 13, 18-22](#)). Here surfaces what was probably one of the basic purposes of the letter to the Romans. Gentiles have become the majority in the church at Rome as well as in the church at large. They are tempted to take undue pride in their new position, even to the extent of thinking they have now replaced the Jews in God's plans. Paul disabuses them of this notion, showing that, by an act of sheer grace, they have been added to Israel. Boasting is out of the question, then, because their own salvation is part of God's plan to offer his mercy to all people.

Understanding the Text

¹¹ Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel envious. ¹² But if their transgression means riches for the world, and their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their full inclusion bring!

Romans 11:11-12 (NIV2011)

- What hope do the Jews ever have of recovering their relationship with God? ([11:11](#))
- How have Gentiles been helped by the Jews' rejection of God's salvation plan? ([11:11-12](#))
- What will be an even greater result than just the response of the Gentiles to God's plan? ([11:12](#))

Understanding the Text

¹³ I am talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the Gentiles, I take pride in my ministry ¹⁴ in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy and save some of them. ¹⁵ For if their rejection brought reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶ If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches.

Romans 11:13-16 (NIV2011)

- How did Paul hope his own Jewish people would respond when they saw him ministering to the Gentiles? ([11:13-14](#))
- What did Paul imagine the response of the Jews to God could bring to the world? ([11:15](#))

