

# Romans 11:16-23

## Boast Not Against Fallen Israel

### 1. Romans 11:11-15

- a. *What happened to Israel and their promised salvation?* Rom 11:5-7 concludes:
  - i. Israel stumbled at Christ and is fallen and blind, but a remnant of wild sinners obtains through Christ by grace + faith ∴ Israel failed to obtain.
- b. 11:11-15 - Israel's fall does not cancel or complete the promise of God toward them.
  - i. God gives mercy in their fall to keep his promise to save them (e.g. remnant)
  - ii. If the world is blessed by their fall, then their salvation and rise will be greater.
- c. The prophetic theme of Israel's fall, remnant, and return as taught by Paul:
  - i. *"to provoke them" "their fulness" "save some of them" "receiving of them be..."*

### 2. 11:16 – Holy Roots

- a. *"For"...* continuing the same subject: Israel's return and salvation (their fulness)
- b. *"If...is holy"* → in accordance with God's purpose, sacred, perfect, just and good.
- c. The firstfruit (remnant, salvation of some), then the lump (the rest of Israel) - 11:2-7
- d. The root (God's word to Israel), then the branches (the nation of Israel).
- e. God's word to them is not null or finished just because of their fall in blindness - 11:25
  - i. *"Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect..."* - Rom 9:6
  - ii. It is the fulfillment of the word of God that turns out to be holy here.
- f. If Israel's fall fulfilled God's words, their salvation also fulfills God's words. Rom 9:4-5

### 3. 11:17-18 – Boast Not Against Fallen Israel

- a. v17 - *"some branches be broken off"* - because they stumbled and fell over Christ/faith.
- b. *"and thou"* - The singular pronoun everyone bogs down to identify (and miss the point)
  - i. Limited options: it cannot be blind Israel, unbelieving Gentiles, nor a new creature.
  - ii. The tree already there. The wild branches believe. They have conditional standing.
  - iii. There are believing Jews and Gentiles outside of Paul's ministry and in the context.
- c. *"wild"* speaks to being unsuitable (sinners), *"olive"* to spiritual Israel, *"tree"* to blessing.
  - i. There is a group of sinners identified as spiritual Israel that receive blessing.
  - ii. Jesus: *"I will have mercy and not sacrifice"* - Matt 3:19, 9:11-13, 11:25, 12:33 Hos 6:6
  - iii. Those receiving mercy can be either Jew or Gentile - Rom 9:24, 30, 10:12, 11:13
  - iv. A faithful Ethiopian Acts 8:37 and Roman (10:35, 11:17) receive what Israel doesn't.
- d. *"partakest of the ...."* - root (word to Israel) and fatness (mercy/blessing/righteous/life)
  - i. Paul's point is NOT *who* the graft is. It is how to treat the broken branches.
- e. 11:18 - *"Boast not against"* fallen Israel ← Paul's instructs how to respond to fallen Israel.
  - i. What if thou get blessed in their blindness? This is not reason to boast or despise.
- f. *"thou bearest not the root..."* - Thou do not keep the promise, but the promise keeps thee.
- g. Though fallen Israel does not get the promise, the promise to Israel is still good. *How?*

**4. 11:19-23 – Fear Lest God Spare Not Thee**

- a. 19 - A true statement – Israel fell for the same reason this guy obtained.
  - i. v20 - Israel fell because of unbelief (not flesh, works, sin). You stand by faith.
- b. *“Be not highminded, but fear”* – fear God, because you are still branches, He the gardener.
  - i. This is like Peter’s advice to the remnant, make your election sure - 2 Pet 1:1-11
  - ii. Paul can explain how the remnant receives/retains mercy, without being a branch.
  - iii. The Body of Christ is not appointed to wrath – 1 Thess 5:9
- c. 21 - God doesn’t spare any branch (natural or wild) if does not bear fruit. (You’re His body)
  - i. This sounds a lot like Jude 4-5, 17-18, John 15:1-6, and Matt 7:19-20, Hab 2:4
  - ii. This branch’s faith is not without works - John 15:10, 1John 2:3
- d. 22 - *“goodness and severity of God”* – The subject since Rom 9:22-23 (wrath vs. mercy)
  - i. God’s goodness and severity is also known in Rom 2:4-4 under the law.
  - ii. See the severity of Jesus on a fruitless religious fig tree “forever” - Mark 11:11-22
  - iii. 23 – The severity toward them does not extend to their inability to be saved.
  - iv. Israel can be grafted back in. They will return and be saved. The branches are holy.