

Romans 11:21-25

The Mystery of Israel's Blindness

1. 11:21-22 - Warning the Wild Graft

- a. The warning: "boast not" since you receive by faith, not fulfill by works - ch 9 & 10
 - i. "fear" and "take heed" lest God spare not, or cut off (Just like Heb 3:12-14)
 - ii. New Covenant Jews receive Christ and fear cut off - Heb 6:4-6, 10:26-27, 1Jo 2:19
- b. The latter a key reason members of Christ's body are disqualified from being this graft.
 - i. Your place, position, salvation, relation to Christ is not something to fear. Rom 8:35
- c. *Why is the graft boasting?* They receive Israel's place, position, salvation promise.
 - i. Is Israel done for good? Are they replaced? Are Gentiles now 'God's holy nation'?
 - ii. No. There is a remnant. Israel has a future fullness. Gentiles a means to save Israel.
 - iii. God's wisdom in this graft is if you think you replace Israel the warning applies.

2. 11:23-24 – Hope for Israel

- a. Ever since 9:1-6 he has been speaking about his hope for Israel to be saved, this is how.
- b. Remnant, salvation to Gentiles, riches of the world, is not Israel's far greater salvation
- c. *"God is able"* ... Sounds a like God's sufficiency in their New Covenant. 2 Cor 3:5-6, 14-16
- d. *"to graft them"* - Who is the graft? Fallen Israel raised up from the dead – 11:15
- e. *"if thou wert"* - like v17 'wert' is the subjunctive form (used in hypothetical 'if I were you')
- f. If in the verse, Gentiles cannot be spiritual Israel, replacement Israel, nor new creature
- g. *"olive tree which is wild"* - Because it was in darkness/sin: fits sinful Israel and Gentiles.
- h. *"contrary to nature"* - Why do sinners get any advantaged position? A: grace 11:5-7
- i. *"good olive tree"* - Where there is righteousness, light, life, coming from the root.
- j. *"how much more shall these"* - If any will be received by grace it will be Israel - Hos 14:1-2
- k. *"their own tree"* - God gave Israel every advantage, the root was theirs - Rom 3:1-4
- l. Peter learns: righteous Gentiles can get in. Paul's ministry: fallen Israel will get grace.

3. 11:25 – A Mystery Concerning Israel

- a. *"brethren, that ye"* - 'thou' (graft) replaced by 'ye', what was once particular now general
- b. *"I would not ... ye should be ignorant"* - They need to know this (Rom 1:13, not Eph 4:18)
 - i. *"lest ye should be wise in your own conceits"* - You think you know, but you don't.
- c. *"this mystery"* – He has (and will) quote prophecy 30+, but this is a mystery ...
 - i. Concerns timing and salvation for Israel. (Not every mystery concerns you.)
- d. *"that blindness"* - Israel's blindness was prophesied back in 11:8-11, but this a mystery ...
- e. *"in part"* 1) The blindness of some, not all. Salvation still comes despite Israel's fall.
 - i. 2) Blindness only for a partial time, not for all of time. (God's not done with them)
 - ii. This means the remnant ≠ all Israel. Gentiles ≠ Israel. Israel's tree is not yet done.
- f. *"until"* their blindness (fallen v24) will end, they will be grafted and 'all Israel' saved.
- g. *"the fulness of the Gentiles be come in"* – Israel's salvation connected to Gentile fulness.
 - i. Israel is not saved when *some* Gentiles come in, but when they all do. Isa 49:6
 - ii. Doesn't this align with the point of the trees/graft? The graft is not their fulness.
 - iii. Whether Gentiles get mercy/salvation first or not does not change Israel's salvation
- h. What is happening is not fulfilling Israel's prophetic purpose, what is is a mystery.
- i. Israel's fall makes Gentile salvation possible, but Israel's salvation brings it to the world.