

A Look Under the Hood of Salvation History - Romans 11:11-24

Israel's trespass of rejecting the Messiah has brought salvation to the world.

The world's salvation is to provoke Israel to jealousy and lead to their full inclusion.

If the people of God are compared to dough or to a tree, then the firstfruits of dough and the roots of the tree illustrate the beginnings of God's people in the holy promises made to the patriarchs which make the whole lump of dough and the whole tree holy.

Gentile believers are compared to wild branches that are grafted into the people of God and nourished by the root which are the promises made to the patriarchs that find their fulfillment in Jesus. Therefore, Gentile believers must not be arrogant or proud, but must continue to walk in humble, reverent faith.

Questions for Discussion & Application

1. What questions do you have about today's passage?
2. Why did Paul seek to magnify his ministry to the Gentiles?
3. What aspects of our lives and fellowship might be used by God to provoke unbelievers to jealousy?
4. Have you seen unbelievers be drawn to Christ by becoming jealous of what Christians possess?
5. As a Gentile believer, have you ever thought of yourself as a "wild olive shoot" that is grafted in to the people of God? Why might this be humbling and important to remember?
6. Gentile believers are instructed in today's passage to not be arrogant and to not become proud (verses 18 & 20). How can such pride be a temptation in your own life?
7. How does today's passage encourage us to continue walking in humble, reverent faith?