

WEEK 6
ROMANS 11
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I. PAUL IS CREATING A BACKSTORY...The Covenant Carol

- The Ghost of Covenant Past (Ch. 9) – God has always been keeping His promises
- The Ghost of Covenant Present (Ch. 10) – Israel had stumbled, opening the door to the Gentiles
- The Ghost of Covenant Future (Ch. 11) – God’s future plan involves both Jews and Gentiles

II. VERSES 1-4

- Have to start back at **10:20-21** to remember the context
- Is God done with Israel? BY NO MEANS!!!!

What’s the evidence?

- A. Paul himself!
- B. God’s promises to those He foreknew
 - 1. Psalm 94:14**
 - 2. I Samuel 12:22**
- C. Elijah, after the defeat of the prophets of Baal
(I Kings 16:29-33, I Kings 19)
God always has at least a remnant!

III. VERSES 5-7

- Review of HARDENING
 - 1. Pharaoh – **9:18**
 - 2. “Giving over” – **1:24-25**
- What was Israel seeking? Why did they fail to receive it? **9:31-32**
NO overlap between grace and works!

IV. VERSES 8-10

- Israel's hardening
 1. **Isaiah 29:9-12** – a state of spiritual blindness
 2. **Psalms 69:22-23** – stumbling over the things that used to be their provision

V. VERSES 11-12

- Is Israel's hardness permanent? BY NO MEANS!
- God uses Israel's hardness to take the Gospel to Gentiles **Rom 8:28**
- God (and Paul) uses jealousy to make Jews jealous of the relationship with God that the Gentiles now enjoy.
 - Jealousy is wrong when directed at something that isn't meant to be yours.
 - Acts 6:1-7**

VI. VERSES 13-16...TIME TO TALK TO THE GENTILES

- Paul's method: preach to the Gentiles, hope to save some of the Jews, too!
- We all have the same call
 - II Cor 5:20**
 - Preach often. Use words when necessary
 - “Making Israel jealous” is part of our calling, too.
- LIFE FROM DEATH – **Ezek. 37:1-14**
 - 2 part revival...both physical and spiritual
- Paul references end-time prophecy, but that's NOT HIS POINT!
- FIRSTFRUITS – dough and root
 - Num 15:17-21, I Cor. 15:20**
 - Scripture applies the principle of first fruits to offerings, sin, false teaching, the Kingdom of God, and Jesus Himself
 - Paul's first fruits are the remnant.
 - Always about something starting small, and growing

VII. VERSES 17-21: THE OLIVE TREE

- The wild branches = “you” = the Gentiles
The natural branches = the Jews
The root...??? For Paul’s story, the root = Abraham, the promises, the Covenant, the benefits of being a Jew from chapter 9
- Israel is often referred to as an olive tree, but God has always been pruning His tree
- Sign of an “unhealthy” branch that needs pruning = unbelief
- What holds the grafted branches on = faith
- Grafting...God's way of making something productive out of what was a “weed.” God’s process is the opposite of the human process
- First mention of the Gentiles’ issues in the Roman church
- All the branches were meant to SHARE sustenance from the root!
Phil 1:9

VIII. VERSES 21-24

- CONTRASTING CHARACTERISTICS
 1. HUMAN – Pride vs. fear
Humility for His grace + healthy fear of His sovereignty
Heb 3:12
 2. Divine – kindness AND severity
Kindness - that He allows any of us to be grafted!
Severity - His willingness to prune away any branches in unbelief
- QUESTION #19 – Is Paul saying that Christians can lose their salvation?
NO... not talking about personal salvation at all!

***Paul is telling the miraculous story of a sovereign God’s eternal plan to redeem all of His fallen creation. The agents of God’s message of hope change at different points in history. IT’S A STORY THAT SHOULD BE VIEWED THROUGH A TELESCOPE, NOT A MICROSCOPE!

IX. VERSES 25-29...THE MYSTERY

- God has completely intertwined the futures of the Gentiles and the Jews!
- Full number of Gentiles = point when God changes the path again
- ALL Israel is (probably) NOT every single Jew.
 - that would ignore the “remnant.”
 - doesn’t fit the language
 - Also not being used to refer to the church!
- Someday, the remnant will no longer be just a remnant!

- Paul's "as it is written" is a combination of two verses.
Isa 59:20-21, Isa 27:9
- Paul's not trying to make an end-time prophecy. Just a reminder of God's promises
- Israel is an enemy of the Good News...FOR NOW. But God's promises are irrevocable!

X. VERSES 30-32

- Israel's current rebellion = Gentiles past rebellion
- God's mercy to Jews = God's mercy to Gentiles
- Consign doesn't refer to God doing anything to us. It's Him showing no favoritism either in His view of our sin, or in granting His mercy.

XI. Verses 33-34....THE DOXOLOGY

- Paraphrase of **Isaiah 40:9-31 (READ THIS!!!!!!)**
- Praise is the only appropriate response after taking a look at God's miraculous plan for us!
- Paul is taking a moment to redirect his audience away from how difficult all this is to understand and putting their focus back on what's important.
- Try looking at Romans 9-11 on an IMAX screen, not your iPhone!

God is the source of all things. He is the means through which all this is accomplished. And His glory is the goal of all these things. Before the ages, God had a plan to create for Himself a family, renewed in the image of His Son, with Jesus as its first fruits, and the faithful from all His creation as the harvest.

For them and then...

Paul wants the Roman church to see themselves as a united family. They were all united in an equal need for God's salvation, and they are all equal recipients of God's mercy. In His sovereignty, God has dealt with them, as Jews and Gentiles, in different ways; But His love for His creation is always consistent.

For us and always...

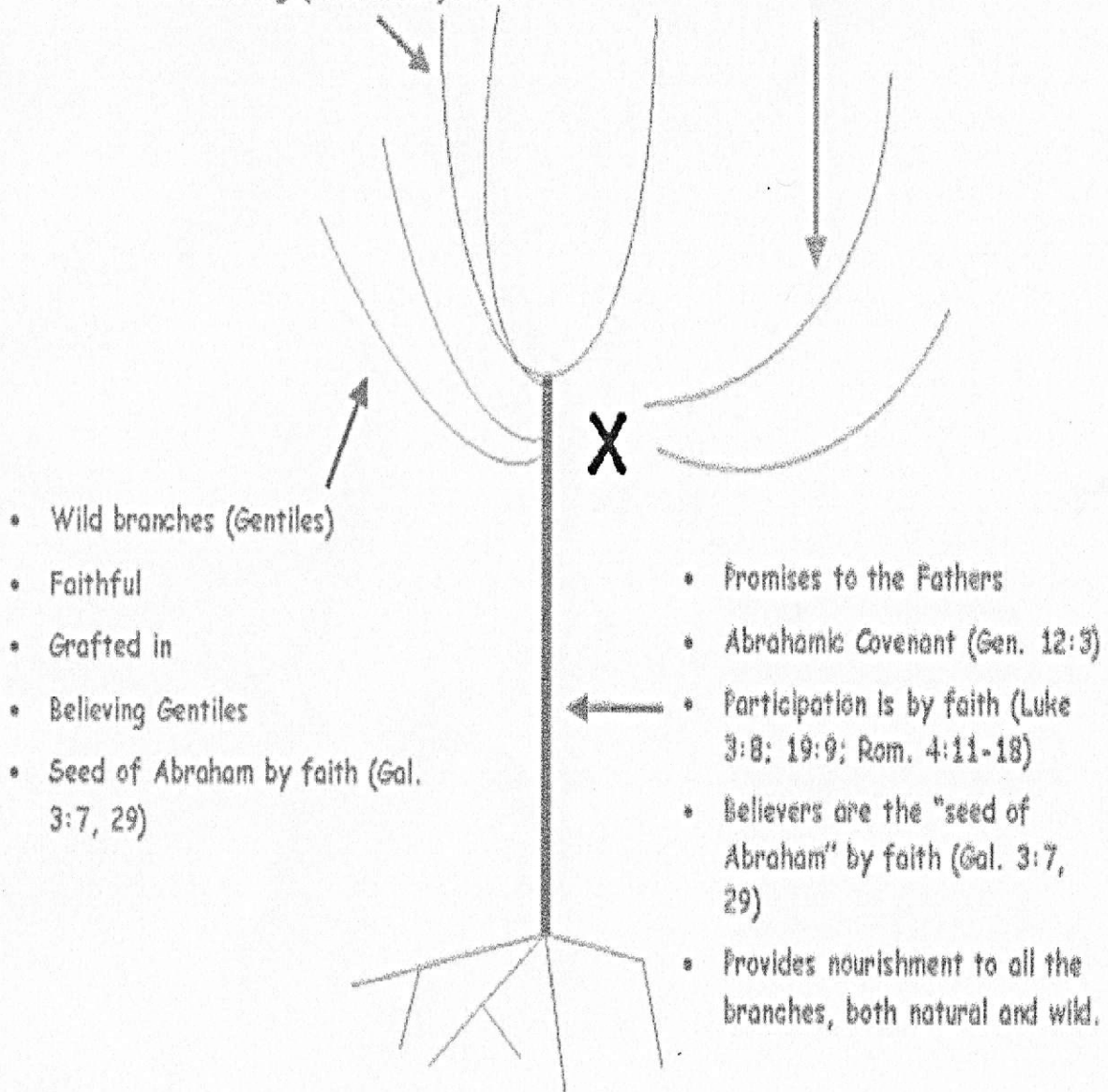
God is not done with Israel. The Church must remember that the story of Israel is our story too. We may not always agree with where the current nation of Israel stands politically... Families don't always get along. We don't always have to agree with what our family members do. But we should find ways to have each other's backs! And that begins with praying for each other and celebrating a future where we all share together in all God has promised.

For me and now...

Am I living my life in such a way that others are jealous of all God has given me? Do I live my life in celebration that the God of creation has **always** had an eternal plan to redeem **all** of His creation, including me? He has never been taken by surprise, and it is not within His character to abandon that which He loves. Am I praising Him even when His ways don't make sense to me? Because even when I don't understand Him, I can trust Him.

- Natural branches (Jews)
- Faithful
- Jewish remnant throughout history
- Believing ("Messianic") Jews

- Natural branches (Jews)
- Lack of faith
- Broken off
- Nonbelieving Jews



- Wild branches (Gentiles)
- Faithful
- Grafted in
- Believing Gentiles
- Seed of Abraham by faith (Gal. 3:7, 29)

- Promises to the Fathers
- Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 12:3)
- Participation is by faith (Luke 3:8; 19:9; Rom. 4:11-18)
- Believers are the "seed of Abraham" by faith (Gal. 3:7, 29)
- Provides nourishment to all the branches, both natural and wild.