

Romans 11:13-24

The Salvation of the Gentiles

- ◆ I am speaking now to you Gentiles: As long as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I will take pride in my work. Perhaps I can make the people of my own race jealous, and so be able to save some of them. For when they were rejected, all other people were changed from God's enemies into his friends. What will it be, then, when they are accepted? It will be life for the dead! If the first piece of bread is given to God, then the whole loaf is his also; and if the roots of a tree are offered to God, the branches are his also. Some of the branches of the cultivated olive tree have been broken off, and a branch of a wild olive tree has been joined to it. You Gentiles are like that wild olive tree, and now you share the strong spiritual life of the Jews. So then, you must not despise those who were broken off like branches. How can you be proud? You are just a branch; you don't support the roots—the roots support you. But you will say, "Yes, but the branches were broken off to make room for me." That is true. They were broken off because they did not believe, while you remain in place because you do believe. But do not be proud of it; instead, be afraid. God did not spare the Jews, who are like natural branches; do you think he will spare you? Here we see how kind and how severe God is. He is severe toward those who have fallen, but kind to you—if you continue in his kindness. But if you do not, you too will be broken off. And if the Jews abandon their unbelief, they will be put back in the place where they were; for God is able to do that. You Gentiles are like the branch of a wild olive tree that is broken off and then, contrary to nature, is joined to a cultivated olive tree. The Jews are like this cultivated tree; and it will be much easier for God to join these broken-off branches to their own tree again.
- ◆ The Jews were unfaithful to God, like useless branches of a tree they were cut off. Gentiles were then accepted in place of the Jews through their faith. They now enjoy the rich blessing of God and are supported by the roots of his spirit. They are being warned against doing as the Jews did for they too will be cut off.
- ◆ When branches are cut off a tree they die; these Jews cut off are dead without God and life is hard. They're separated from the roots and trunk that supports and nourishes them. We die (not only physical) when we're not attached to God, let's do our best to remain connected to God.
- ◆ The Jews will be accepted back if they decide to be faithful to God. The Gentiles were put in place to make the Jews jealous. Jealousy **can** make a person turn back, the Jews seeing the Gentiles enjoying life in God will come back to God. God loves his people so much and will accept them back.
- ◆ The choice is ours to belong to God or not, we just have to believe in him and live according to his commands and we'll enjoy his rich blessings.