

Studies In Romans

(Romans 11:16-36)

1. Should we (Gentiles) ever boast against the root of our salvation (Jews)?

No: "(16) *For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches.* (17) *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;* (18) *Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee*" (**Romans 11:16-18**).

- The Jews were the firstfruit (**James 1:1; 1:18**; cf. **Romans 1:16**, **Matthew 10:5-6**, and **Luke 24:47**).
- They were a holy nation unto God (**Exodus 19:6**, **Leviticus 19:2**, and **Deuteronomy 28:9**).
- "So are the branches" (**I Peter 2:5-11**).
- Broken branches (**Jeremiah 11:11-16**).
- Being grafted in (**Ephesians 2:11-14** and **Ephesians 3:6**).
- As we'll address in the next question (**verse 20**), don't allow their (Jews) being broken off to be a boastful point against them (Jews).
- Remember, it is not us (Gentiles) that support the root, but the root (Jews) that supports us (**John 4:22**).

2. Should we be overconfident in our (Gentiles) salvation because God broke off the Jews to bring us unto Him?

No, in fact that should make us be mindful and fear: "(19) *Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.* (20) *Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:* (21) *For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee*" (**Romans 11:19-21**).

- The reason of the Jews being broken off - unbelief (**Mark 16:15-16**, **II Thessalonians 2:10-12**, **Hebrews 3:15-4:6**, **Hebrews 11:6**, and **Jude 5**).
- Take heed lest he also spare not thee (**I Corinthians 10:1-12**, **Hebrews 3:12**, **Hebrews 4:11**, and **II Peter 2:4-9**).
- Be not high-minded (**Isaiah 2:11**, **Luke 18:10-14**, and **Romans 12:16**).
- But fear (**II Corinthians 7:1**, **Philippians 2:12**, and **I Peter 2:17**).
- It is not that unbelief cannot be forgiven though (**I Timothy 1:12-15**).

3. If one focuses only on the goodness of God, what side of Him are they missing?

The severity: “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off” (**Romans 11:22**).

- Behold (**Deuteronomy 32:39-43**, **Isaiah 13:9**, and **James 5:9**).
- Goodness (**Psalms 55:22**, **Lamentations 3:25-26**, **John 12:25-26**, **Romans 5:6-10**, **I Timothy 2:4**, **I Peter 1:3-9**, and **I Peter 5:6-7**).
- Severity (**Numbers 15:32-36**, **Numbers 20:1-12**, **II Kings 2:23-24**, **Mark 9:43-48**, **Acts 5:1-10**, and **Hebrews 10:26-31**).
- Balance (**Joshua 23:15-16**, **I Chronicles 28:9**, and **Romans 2:4-5**).

4. Did God permanently cut off the natural branches (Israel)?

No: “(23) And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. (24) For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree” (**Romans 11:23-24**)?

- Getting back in, **IF**, they do not abide in unbelief (**Deuteronomy 30:8-10**, **II Chronicles 7:14**, **Jeremiah 7:1-7**, **Lamentations 3:40**, **Acts 2:38-41**, **Acts 3:19**, and **II Corinthians 3:12-17**).

5. What mystery concerning Israel did Paul clarify?

That the fall of Israel was to save the Gentiles: “(25) For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. (26) And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: (27) For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins (28) As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes” (**Romans 11:25-28**).

- This mystery is revealed so that there is not ignorance and some form of self-wisdom (**Proverbs 26:12**) started to occur as to why there was spiritual blindness to some of the Jews.
- Until the fullness of the Gentiles come in (cf. **Acts 13:38-49**).
- At times, when we read of “all Israel”, remember that this is spiritually, not fleshly, relative (**Romans 9:6-8** and **Galatians 3:26-29**).
- Here, this is the promise of old in accordance with what was written concerning Israel according to the flesh (**Isaiah 59:20**).
- The fact is, there was a focus on saving Gentiles (**Ephesians 3:8** and **II Timothy 4:16-17**).
- The point here is, God is not going to just forget the Jews though (**Isaiah 45:17** and **Jeremiah 31:31-34**; cf. **Hebrews 10:1-20**).
- Remember, God promised the fathers (**Acts 3:20-26** and **Acts 13:16-26**).

6. Did God offer the gift of salvation with intentions on revoking it?

No: "*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance*" (**Romans 11:29**).

- **Numbers 23:19, Deuteronomy 32:4, Malachi 3:6, Titus 1:2, and Hebrews 6:17-18.**
- That does not mean they are without conditions (**Exodus 19:5, Jeremiah 7:23, Hebrews 3:14, I John 1:7, and Revelation 2:10**).

7. What role did/does mercy have in the salvation of everyone?

All needed mercy to be saved: "(30) *For as ye in times past have not believed God, yet have now obtained mercy through their unbelief:* (31) *Even so have these also now not believed, that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy.* (32) *For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all*" (**Romans 11:30-32**).

- Like many people today, some in Rome forgot what they were before they obeyed the Gospel. Remember this point that, in times past... (**I Corinthians 6:9-11, Ephesians 2:1-5, Colossians 3:6-7, and I Peter 4:1-5**).
- Anyone who is now a Christian had/has/will need mercy from God (**Proverbs 16:6, Titus 3:3-7, I Peter 1:3, I Peter 2:10, and Jude 21**).
- Now, if anyone refuses themselves to be merciful... **Matthew 5:7** and **James 2:13**.

8. Are we on the same level of existence and thinking with God?

No: "(33) *O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!* (34) *For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?* (35) *Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?* (36) *For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen*" (**Romans 11:33-36**).

- **Job 5:8-9, Job 11:7-9, Job 33:12, Job 37:23, Psalms 92:5, Psalms 145:3, Isaiah 40:13, Isaiah 40:28, Isaiah 55:7-9, and I Corinthians 1:25.**
- All things of Him (**Genesis 1:1, I Chronicles 29:11-12, Psalms 33:6, Isaiah 42:5, Isaiah 45:18, Ephesians 3:9, Colossians 1:15-18, Hebrews 1:10, and Hebrews 11:3**).
- For Him (**Proverbs 16:4, Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, and Revelation 4:11**).
- Glory is His (**Roman 16:27, I Corinthians 10:31, and Jude 25**).