

Romans 11b

17 The olive tree is a symbol for Israel. Not all Israel are of Israel. If you are not a child of faith, though you are born into the tree you need to remain in the tree by being a person of faith. I believe he is saying those Jews who reject Christ are removed from the tree. The main point is that just because your heritage is from Israel so don't get too cocky.

18 The revelation of God is through this trunk and these are the people God has been working through. We joined it by faith.

19 Just because God grafted you in, by His grace and mercy, don't think you are so special or above others.

20 The cause that separated the Jewish people from the trunk was unbelief. Faith causes us to be joined in. The fear of God is that once joined, if you choose to return to unbelief you may. You stand by faith in the grace and mercy of the unseen God and His provision for you. Let go of that and you will hear the pruning blade.

21,22 If being grafted in means you have become of Israel by faith, then this passage sounds like your rejection of faith in the future may mean being severed from the Family of God. Continuing in the kindness of God – Heb 10:35,36 3:14
(see comment on next verse for another perspective)

23 To stay in unbelief requires persistence. The Jews that were pruned can repent and believe and be a part of the holy tree. Hebrews 6 tells us plainly one cannot be saved a second time. So what does it mean to be a part of this tree? Verse 17 says that if you are a branch you receive the nourishing sap. Perhaps it is living in Life presently.

24 They have studied the word and it is their heritage. Their eyes are enlightened they see the word of God- like it will take many of us wild ones years to comprehend. If they come to faith like the Apostle Paul did, they already have the Word and types and shadows.

25 A whole doctrine uses this as its key verse. The time of the Jews was up to the crucifixion or 70AD (some would say the crucifixion or Pentecost). Since that time the times of the Gentiles has come in and Gentiles are given this age to receive faith and salvation. The Jews are blinded to the truth during this age, but that will change when the full number of Gentiles receive Jesus. Then we will see the 144,000 Jews lead the battle for truth in the last seven years. Ps 22:27 They become part of the new man – made up of Jew and Gentile. The middle wall dividing us is gone in Christ. Together we make up His body, the Family of God, the Temple of God.

26 Are these Tribulation saints? Is this any Jew that comes to Christ at any time? This verse is worded in a way that brings up quite a few debates. The prophetic word refers to Jesus of course, but when, since right now they are hardened. It must be after the full number of the Gentiles comes in that Jacob is delivered.

27 Is 59:20,21 27:9 Jer 31:33,34 By all Israel he does not mean that every Israelite through out time will be saved. He does look forward to the prophetic fulfillment of the time when there will be a great revival among the Jewish people and they will repent and be saved. Isn't this the 144,000 of Revelation? Some would say this refers to spiritual Israel but Paul has been talking of his burden for his own people. see next verse for context

28 The Jews really did not like Christians in the first century for the Christians declared that Jews missed their Messiah and in fact killed Him. But God has elected them, for He made promises to the patriarchs. Until that time comes there are many who are from the lineage of the patriarchs who have not received Christ and died in their sins.

29 They are called to be children of God because of their lineage. They must still repent and receive Jesus to be grafted back in. The time will come when that will be true of a great number of them. This verse is often quoted about a ministerial call, the call to be a child of God, the gifts of the Spirit, all of which may be true but are not the context here. Here Paul is referring to God's call on the Nation of Israel and the gifts of the land of Israel and the word delivered to them. God is not sorry nor has He changed his mind.

30,31 God uses the life of born again Gentiles like you and me to show the Jews the spirit of the Law they are looking for and through that, draws them to Himself.

32 If we did not have a sinful nature and could make it by being good, there would be far fewer spending eternity with God. Since we have all failed, the salvation of the cross is for all, so that whoever will may come. Here is a verse a universalist could twist into saying all will be saved. Look at the content of the chapter that clearly shows all will not be saved.

33 Paul breaks into a song of praise as he recognizes even in spite of the ugliness of the sin nature, God has provided a way for all who will come to Jesus. His treasures of wisdom and knowledge are piled to the heavens, His justice based on all relevance, most of which we have no knowledge, The way He goes about performing His will we see but a finitely small fraction. Coming at this point in his explanation of salvation, I take it as a confirmation of my conviction, you cannot explain to the mind of man election and free will. It is wonderfully beyond us and our mental capacity.

34 We can never figure out his mind. There is too much we do not know. Quit trying and trust. Most of the time I think I know what He is doing I am wrong! This is a quote from Is 40:13 How could man even give Him a suggestion? Our only hope in prayer is for His Holy Spirit to share His heart so we can pray the right things.

35 Everything is a gift from the One who made it all. The air we breath, the sights we see, the food we eat, the ability to earn a living, everything is from his generous hand. Anything we give is just returning it to the One who first gave it to us. Lk 17:10

36 Everything comes from God and everything will return to God. Everything is to glorify God. His is all the glory now and forever. AMEN!