

MAKE WAY FOR WILD BRANCHES!

Romans 11:11-22

Benjamin Franklin: As young man, visited Puritan preacher Cotton Mather: On way out, there's low beam near door. "Mather shouted: 'Stoop!' I didn't understand & banged my head on beam. 'You're young & have world before you. Stoop as you go through; you'll avoid many bumps.' I've learned not to carry my head too high."

People blessed by God's grace suffer that affliction.

Israel made that mistake.

Reading OT, I ask: "**How could they be so *stupid*?!**

Past—Rom 9 Present—Rom 10 Future—Rom 11

"I'd rather do it myself!" ***Won't they ever learn?***

WE get this **superior feeling**. "I'd never do THAT!"

Rom 11 reflects such feelings re. Gentiles & Israel's future.

SALVATION OF PAGAN GENTILES 11:11-22

PURPOSE OF ISRAEL'S DOWNFALL 11:11-16

Did they fall so they can never come back? "**NO WAY!**"

Israel's fall isn't intended to destroy Israel

11 "*Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to Gentiles...*"

It's intended to make salvation available to pagans

It's intended to make Israel jealous to turn back to God

11 "...salvation has come to Gentiles, to make Israel envious... ¹⁴*in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy & save some of them.*"

GOD'S CYCLE TO DRAW MORE PEOPLE TO CHRIST:

God chose Israel to provide a Savior

Israel's downfall allows salvation for pagan Gentiles!

Salvation of pagans provokes Israel to jealousy.

Israel's jealousy draws her back to God and to the Savior.

Israel's return will attract pagan Gentiles to her Savior.

Blessing for us *isn't* because God decided to "throw bums out!"

He uses *us* to make *them* jealous, so they'll turn back to Him.

So He can use them to draw nations—**That's God's cycle!**

God's process for blessing the world 12 *"If their transgression means riches for the world & their loss means riches for the Gentiles, how much greater riches will their fullness bring!"*

Israel's failure=>riches for world, esp. pagans

Israel's restoration=> greater riches for world!

Restoration=>OT promises & blessing for the nations.

Paul's desire to "enlarge his territory"

13-16 *"I'm talking to you Gentiles. Inasmuch as I'm the apostle to the Gentiles, **I make much of** my ministry ¹⁴in the hope that I may somehow arouse my own people to envy & save some of them. ¹⁵For if their rejection is the reconciliation to the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? ¹⁶If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy; if the root is holy, so are the branches."*

Lit. **"to glorify [make heavier => enlarge] my ministry"** **His reason: so Israel becomes jealous, & be saved.**

Ministry to pagans=>envy encourages *them* to trust Jesus
Israel's rejection=> reconciliation of world 15

If their exclusion produced so much good,
how much *more* will their restoration produce?

Israel's return=>new life for dead

Israel "made alive again;"

=> world shares in blessing=> dead pagans made alive

2 ill.: #1 = Dough used in baking: 16a

"If the part of the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, then the whole batch is holy"

If initial lump is holy, so is whole lump

Firstfruit offering is taken at start of harvest.

–indicator of what rest of crop will be like.

2nd illustration: olive tree

16b *"If the root is holy, so are the branches."*

Original olive tree's good=>1st fruits good=> rest is good

If root is holy, so are branches

Some branches come out bad; doesn't negate value of tree.

Bad branches need pruning; *doesn't mean destroy the tree!*

God's promise to patriarchs hasn't been revoked!

They're "set apart" for God's use—as forefathers were

Israel had holy beginning; it will have holy end.

God will finish what he started with Israel!

GRAFTING OF WILD BRANCHES 17-21 *"If some of the branches have been broken off, & you, though a wild olive shoot, have been grafted in among the others & now share in the nourishing sap from the olive root, ¹⁸do not boast over those branches. If you do, consider this: You do not support the root, but*

the root supports you. ¹⁹You will say then, “Branches were broken off so that I could be grafted in.” ²⁰Granted. But they were broken off **because of unbelief**, & you stand **by faith**. Do not be arrogant, but be afraid. ²¹For if God did not spare natural branches, he will not spare you.”

We’re *NOT* the natural branches!

We’ve been *grafted* to the original tree.

Natural branches which produce no fruit are trimmed off.

They’re replaced by wild branches.

Wild ones now receive life-giving nourishment from stock.

Nothing in us *merits* God’s work. Anything useful comes from

Him. We *still* have nothing to brag about!

Spirit produces fruit in us.

God didn’t choose *us* because we come from better stock.

God grafted pagans into His plan to show His GRACE!

Nourishing sap of cultivated stock gives **us** new value!

Blessings we enjoy were promised to *Israel*.

We don’t *merit* them; **God added us to their tree!**

Some “natural branches” were **broken off**.

We’ve been “**grafted in**,” though “wild branches.

We’re **partakers of their nourishing root**.

Warning: Don’t brag against natural branches!

We don’t **support the root**; **root supports us!**

We’re the “add-ons” –We’re the newcomers!

We’ve received blessing God promised **THEM!**

Because of **unbelief**, they’re **broken off** 19-20

We might assume: since they're broken off & we're grafted in, we're better than them. That would be faulty assumption.

Because of faith [we trust Him], we stand.

God grafted us in because of **His GRACE!** => ∴

Warning: Don't get conceited; but fear!

God didn't spare natural branches,

Due to their pride & unbelief 21

God won't spare us,

if we try to stand in our own strength

Do "wild branches" stand better chance than natural branches?

He's talking about basis for *God's blessing—not salvation!*

Jn 15—we can't survive on our own anymore than Israel!

Trying to stand on our own leads to barren, fruitless living!

We don't stand by our efforts—even our best efforts;

we stand on basis of **God's kindness**—His **grace** to us!

Basis of our acceptance 22 "*Consider therefore the kindness & sternness of God: sternness to those who fell, but **kindness** to you, provided that you **continue in his kindness**. Otherwise, you also will be cut off.*"

Acceptance *always* based on trusting Jesus alone

It's *never* based on our efforts, or what we deserve!

It's *always* based on God's **kindness** [His **grace!**]

If we try to stand on our own, we lose our foundation.

God deals with people on one of two bases:

1. His kindness or, 2. His severity

On which basis would WE prefer God deal with US?

Abide in His kindness

Draw out of Him what sustains life—Jn 15

Trust Him—We trust *HIM—NOT US!*

—not our heritage! —not our merit!

—not our money! —not our performance!

It's based on HIS kindness!

That brings us back to: GRACE!

Basis of gospel=>Trusting Christ alone by God's grace

Two alternatives: we face severe judgment of God,

Or we come to Him based on trusting His kindness—

Trusting Christ alone – Which will WE choose?