



**The Redemption of Israel  
(Romans 11:17-24; 33-36)**

# **I. Israel's Restoration with God (Romans 11:17-24)**

## **A. The Allegory of the Olive Tree**

# Romans 11:17-21

- **17** But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree,
- **18** do not be arrogant toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you.
- **19** Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."
- **20** That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief, but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.
- **21** For if God did not spare the natural branches, neither will he spare you.

# Romans 11:22-24

- <sup>22</sup> Note then the kindness and the severity of God: severity toward those who have fallen, but God's kindness to you, provided you continue in his kindness. Otherwise, you too will be cut off.
- <sup>23</sup> And even they, if they do not continue in their unbelief, will be grafted in, for God has the power to graft them in again.
- <sup>24</sup> For if you were cut from what is by nature a wild olive tree, and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree.

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**B. It is Never Too Late  
to be Reconciled with God**

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- <sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then **in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.** (Matthew 13:44)
- **12** Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to **Jesus**, the founder and perfecter of our faith, **who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross**, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- <sup>8</sup> but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

## **B. It is Never Too Late to be Reconciled with God**

- <sup>4</sup> But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, <sup>5</sup> **even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, (Ephesians 2:4-6)
- **The Return of the Jews from Bablylon:**
- <sup>21</sup> A remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, to the mighty God. (Isaiah 10:21)

## **B. It is Never Too Late to be Reconciled with God**

- **The Prodigal Son:**
- <sup>17</sup> “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! <sup>18</sup> **I will arise and go to my father**, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”” <sup>20</sup> And he arose and came to his father. **But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.**



# B. It is Never Too Late to be Reconciled with God

- **God Counts Our Faith as Righteousness:**
- <sup>5</sup> And [God] brought [Abraham] outside and said, “Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.” <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness. (Genesis 15:6)
- Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. . . . those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. (Romans 5:1-2, 17)

# **I. Israel's Restoration with God (Romans 11:17-24)**

## **C. Salvation Seldom Follows a Direct Path**

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- **The Story of Joseph as an Allegory for Salvation:**
- Thrown in a cistern
- Sold to traveling merchants
- Sold to Potiphar
- Accused by Potiphar's wife
- Thrown into jail
- Interprets dreams by Pharaoh's cupbearer and baker
- Forgotten about in jail
- Remembered and released by interpreting Pharaoh's dream
- Elevated to second in command in Egypt

## **II. The Need for Spiritual Humility (Romans 11:17-24)**

**A. Avoid Arrogance:  
We are Not Chosen on Merit**

# Avoid Arrogance: We are Not Chosen on Merit

- <sup>18</sup> **do not be arrogant** toward the branches. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root, but the root that supports you. (Romans 11:18)
- <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And **this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,** <sup>9</sup> **not a result of works,** so that no one may boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and **become like children,** you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3)

## **II. The Need for Spiritual Humility (Romans 11:17-24)**

**B. No Theological System  
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- <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> **so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**  
(Ephesians 2:6-7)

# **III. The Awesomeness of God (Romans 11:33-36)**

## **A. God's Ways are Beyond our Understanding**



# **A. God's Ways are Beyond our Understanding**

- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

# A Little Bit of Latin

- “Si comprehendus, non est Deus”
- “If you understand, it is not God” (Augustine)

# **III. The Awesomeness of God (Romans 11:33-36)**

**B. God as the Source, Sustainer,  
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- **The Preeminence of Christ**
- <sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.
- <sup>16</sup> For **by him** all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created **through him and for him**.
- <sup>17</sup> And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- (Colossians 1:15-17)

# God Lifts Us Up by His (Everyday) Grace

- **“Sustaining Grace”:**
- “Our experience, and the Bible, teach us that grace does not prevent pain, but orders, and arranges, and measures out our pain, and then in the darkness is there to sustain.” (John Piper)
  
- **God lifts us up by His grace:**
- <sup>31</sup> but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31)

# A Doxology of Faith (Romans 11:33-36)

- <sup>33</sup> Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!
- <sup>34</sup> "For who has known the mind of the Lord,  
or who has been his counselor?"  
<sup>35</sup> "Or who has given a gift to him  
that he might be repaid?"
- <sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things.  
To him be glory forever. Amen.

**Let Us Pray**

