

THE BOOK OF ROMANS
"Warning to Gentiles"
Romans 11:16-24

INTRODUCTION

1. It is forever true that the Jewish nation has a future in God's program (vv. 1-4). Today only an election according to grace is being saved (vv. 5, 6).
2. The judicial hardness of the nation is beyond question. It's all because Israel failed to believe God, hence incurred God's punishment (vv. 7-10).
3. But, glory to God, the stumbling of the Jews is not permanent nor is it without reason (vv. 11-15). Their present situation is as it is until their fulness and to permit Gentiles to be saved.
4. Nonetheless, the Jews still have a special place with God (v. 16). Two metaphors are used here: "first fruit--lump" and "root--branches." Numbers 15:19-21 speaks of the first fruit, the handful of dough offered to the Lord to show the whole mass from which it was taken was consecrated to the Lord (Deut. 7:6; 1 Cor. 7:14). Now the first fruit is representative of the patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob). The lump is the whole lineal descent of Israel from these patriarchs. In the other figure, the root is the patriarchs and the branches the descendants. Thus, Israel is the original root with which God worked. The nation failed and the Gentiles came in.
5. Now what? Gentiles need some warnings. Here they are:

1. AGAINST BOASTING vv. 17, 18

a. Due to breaking v. 17a

Read Jer 33
if = since is only to Jews.
This is a first class condition, therefore assumed to be true. The failure of the nation has been fully stated (ch. 10 etc.). It is a fact that Israel has suffered God's judgment.

b. Due to grafting v. 17b

Show - emphatic personal pronoun
By this means (aorist passive) the Lord effected a work for the Gentiles. They became a partaker or co-partner with the Jews (cf. Eph. 2:13-16). Three successive genitives follow: "of the root of the fatness of the olive." What a mighty work God did for Gentiles!

c. Due to bearing v. 18

To boast is most absurd. Why? Salvation had come to the Gentiles because of the root (Abraham, Gen. 3:16, 29; Rom. 4:11, 12) and not vice versa (Gen. 22:18). No one could boast who knew the facts.

2. AGAINST PRIDE vv. 19-21

a. Due to breaking v. 19

Here is an advance in the argument as the particle "then" indicates. The same verb for break off is used as in v. 17. Then follows a purpose clause with the emphatic personal pronoun "I" with the verb "grafted." Such unbridled pride by the Gentiles!

b. Due to believing v. 20a

The point must be "well" taken. The Jews were cut off because of unbelief; not because the Gentiles were better than the Jews. The Gentiles stood by faith, hence they were no better than the wrongly despised Jew.

c. Due to thinking v. 20b

Here is a direct command in the present tense to "stop thinking high (proud) thoughts." Rather "keep fearing." This is no less an admonition for today!

d. Due to sparing v. 21

The bald fact is that God did not spare the natural branches (faithless Israel). Surely on the same ground He will not spare faithless Gentiles. The first class condition is meaningful.

EPH 2:10
9/9/10

3. AGAINST PRESUMPTION vv. 22-24

a. Due to God's person v. 22

The attributes of God are listed: 1) severity towards Israel which fell and 2) goodness towards Gentiles. Note how neatly a contingency is included based on a third class condition. The thought is clear: conduct is associated with the expectation of God's continued goodness.

b. Due to God's power v. 23

Ah, this is good news. Israel may not stay in unbelief. If that were the case, God could graft in again the nation. Obviously, the idea is that stubborn as Israel seems, the hinderance of unbelief could be removed by God. All glory to His Name.

c. Due to God's plan v. 24

Inasmuch as God took Gentiles (wild olive tree) from idol worship and gross immorality and led them to Himself, how much more could He take Israel (natural olive tree) and cause them to return to their former path. Amen!

CONCLUSION No Gentile should ever be boastful, proud, or presumptuous. He stands by faith. That's grace. God will yet restore Israel.

BEWARE
of the Sun
(To destroy
of security
to deliver)