

# FULLNESS OF GENTILES

Lesson Sixteen; Romans 11

## Addressing the Gentiles Directly

<sup>13</sup> Now I am speaking to you Gentiles ...

## The Dough and the Tree

<sup>16</sup> If the dough offered as firstfruits is holy, so is the whole lump, and if the root is holy, so are the branches.

### Messianic Jews and Israel

- The first fruits of the dough: Remnant (Messianic Jews)
- The whole lump: Israel (Non-Messianic Jews)
  
- The root: (Messianic Jews)
- The branches: (Non-Messianic Jews)

## Grafted In

<sup>17</sup> But if some of the branches [Jewish people] were broken off [from spiritual Israel], and you, although a wild olive shoot, were grafted in among the others and now share in the nourishing root of the olive tree [i.e. the faith of the forefathers or the faith of the remnant],

<sup>18</sup> do not be arrogant toward the branches [the Jewish people who are not disciples of Yeshua]. If you are, remember it is not you who support the root [forefathers/Messianic Jews], but the root that supports you.

<sup>19</sup> Then you will say, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

<sup>20</sup> That is true. They were broken off because of their unbelief [regarding the message of gospel, and they did not repent], but you stand fast through faith. So do not become proud, but fear.

<sup>21</sup> For if God did not spare the natural branches [i.e. the Jewish people who did not repent], neither will he spare you [if you do not repent].

## Kindness and Severity

<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 [i.e. other peoples], and grafted, contrary to nature, into a cultivated olive tree [i.e. the people of Israel], how much more will these [Jewish people], the natural branches, be grafted back into their own olive tree [the people of Israel].

## Fullness of Gentiles

<sup>25</sup> Lest you be wise in your own sight, I want you to understand this mystery, brothers: a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

*"Fullness of the Gentiles" is the phrase that Jacob used to bless his newly adopted son Ephraim. Jacob said to Ephraim, "Your seed will be a fullness of the Gentiles (nations)."*

*"His seed will become a fullness of nations" (Genesis 48:19).*

## Deliverer from Zion

<sup>26</sup> And in this way all Israel will be saved, as it is written [regarding the final redemption and the new covenant in Isaiah 59:20], "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will **banish ungodliness from Jacob**";

<sup>27</sup> [and it is written regarding the final redemption in Isaiah 27:9] "and this will be my covenant with them **when I take away their sins.**"

## Isaiah 59:20ff

<sup>20</sup> "And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the LORD.

<sup>21</sup> "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the LORD, "from this time forth and forevermore." (Isa 59:20-21 ESV)

## Isaiah 27:9ff

<sup>9</sup> Therefore by this the guilt of Jacob will be atoned for, and this will be the full fruit of the removal of his sin ...

<sup>12</sup> In that day from the river Euphrates to the Brook of Egypt the LORD will thresh out the grain, and you will be gleaned one by one, O people of Israel.

<sup>13</sup> And in that day a great trumpet will be blown, and those who were lost in the land of Assyria and those who were driven out to the land of Egypt will come and worship the LORD on the holy mountain at Jerusalem. (Isa 27:9-13 ESV)

*Compare: "Behold, the days are coming ... when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah ... For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more." (Jeremiah 31:31-34)*

### **A Complicated Relationship**

<sup>28</sup> As regards the gospel, they are enemies of God for your sake. But as regards election, they are beloved for the sake of their forefathers. [Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob].

<sup>29</sup> For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

### **Undeserved Mercy**

<sup>30</sup> For just as you [Gentile believers] were at one time [idolaters] disobedient to God but now have received mercy [only] because of their [i.e. Jewish] disobedience [which has forestalled the redemption and the final judgment],

<sup>31</sup> so they [the Jewish people] too have now been disobedient [to the good news message] in order that by the mercy shown to you they also may now receive mercy.

<sup>32</sup> For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all.

1. Salvation has come to the Gentiles, so as to make Israel jealous. (Rom 11:11)

2. A spiritual symbiosis: "If the root is holy, so are the branches." (Rom 11:16)

[Pause for Doxology]

### **The Doxology**

<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?" (Isaiah 40:13).

<sup>35</sup> "Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?" [Cf. Job 41:11]

<sup>36</sup> For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.