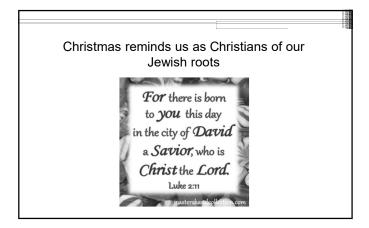
The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God



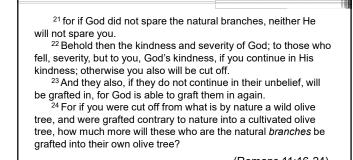
¹⁶ If the first piece of dough is holy, the lump is also; and if the root is holy, the branches are too.

¹⁷ But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree,

¹⁸ do not be arrogant toward the branches; but if you are arrogant, remember that it is not you who supports the root, but the root supports you.

¹⁹ You will say then, "Branches were broken off so that I might be grafted in."

²⁰ True, they were broken off for their unbelief, but you stand by your faith. Do not be conceited, but fear;



(Romans 11:16-24)



Cultivated Olive Tree

Graft of an Olive Tree Shoot



Olive Tree = the people of God spanning both ages Root = the patriarchs/promises Natural Branches = Israelites Wild Branches = Gentiles

Olive Tree and Branches

- 1. Hope for Israel
 - the "holiness" that characterized the beginning of Israel (the patriarchs) has a continuing significance for the whole of Israel
 - Israel continues to have a unique, "elect" status before God

Olive Tree and Branches

- 2. "Unnatural" Riches for Gentiles
 - Gentiles are made partakers of the Abrahamic promise and blessing – we are Abraham's "seed"
 - Gentiles are "grafted in" by faith alone in Christ

²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
²⁷ For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

(Galatians 3:26-29)

Olive Tree and Branches

- 3. Danger for Gentile Christians
 - spiritual pride and a sense of superiority over the Jewish people

Olive Tree and Branches

- Reasons NOT to Boast:
 - 1. The root supports you, not vice-versa
 - 2. Your standing is only by faith
 - 3. The danger of being "cut off" by God

Olive Tree and Branches

- > The root supports you
 - Gentile Christians depend on Jewish heritage for their standing and spiritual nourishment

What is your attitude toward unbelievers? Compassion or Conceit?