

THE FULNESS OF THE GENTILES

Request: “I recently heard a pastor teach that Christians are not grafted into the Jewish Olive Tree. Can you explain Rom.11:17?” “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.” (Rom.11:17)

In a previous lesson, we examined Rom.11:11-25 and the mystery of the olive tree analogy. We identified these six symbols used in this mystery (Rom.11:25).

- Holy root Jesus Christ (Isa.11:10; 53:2)
- Natural branches Israelites of messianic lineage (Rom.11:1; Matt.1:1-17)
- Wild branches Gentiles (Isa.42:6-7; 49:6; Acts 13:46-48)
- Olive tree Abrahamic Covenant (Gen.12:1-3; Gal.3:16, 26-29)
- Grafting Gentile faith in gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.11:15-18, 25; Rom.1:16)
- Broken off Jew unbelief in gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.11:11-14, 20-23; Acts 13:46-48)

Paul explained that the grafting in of the Gentiles and the breaking off of Israelites occurs during the period known as time of “fulness of Gentiles and the partial hardening of Israel.” (Rom.11:25)

This lesson will study three aspects of the Fulness of Gentiles associated with the mystery of the Olive Tree.

1. The time of the Fulness of the Gentiles is from the Babylonian Captivity (586BC) until the Tribulation or last week of Daniel’s prophecy (9:24-27).

There are three important Jewish factors to understanding the Fulness of the Gentiles.

- The fifth cycle of divine discipline (5CD) of the Babylonian Captivity had the curse of Coniah attached to it (Jer.22:30). There would not be a Judean King sitting on the Davidic throne until Christ sits on it in resurrection body (2 Sam.7; Luke 1:32-33; 2:32). This is the Fulness of the Gentiles.
- The 5CD of Babylonian Captivity upon Israel meant that Gentiles would rule over them until the Second Coming of Christ (Lev.26; Deut.28:36-41, 48-57, 64-68). This is the Fulness of the Gentiles (Luke 21:20-24).
- Daniel’s prophesy of 70 weeks describes three periods of the fulness of Gentiles and the partial hardening of Israel (Dan.9:24-27; Num.14:34).

Daniel’s prophesy dealt with three periods of 70 weeks or 490 years (lunar calendar)

1. (7 weeks x 7 = 49 yrs) (Dan.9:25) [return from Persia]
2. (62 weeks x 7 = 434 yrs) (Dan.9:26) [interbiblical period, crucifixion, and fall to Rome]
3. (1 week x 7 = 7yrs) [Tribulation]. This final period of 1 week or 7yrs is the Jewish Tribulation of (Rev.6-19; Dan.12:1; Matt.24:21). This last week is divided into three parts first 3 ½ and middle and last 3 ½ (Dan.9:27).

2. The mystery of the church age interrupted Daniel's prophecy at week 69 (Pentecost of 30AD until Rapture).

When the church is raptured from this world, the last week or last 7 years of Daniel's prophesy will be completed (1 Thess.4:13-18; Matt.12:17-21; Acts 26:23; Gen.12:3).

3. Paul referred to the time of the fulness of the Gentiles as the time of the partial hardening of Israel.

The grafting in of the Gentiles is related to the partial hardening of Israel (Acts 9:15; 11:18; 15:1, 5-11; 26:23; 28:23-29).

The partial hardening of Israel towards the Gospel of Jesus Christ will result in them being broken off the Olive Tree (John 1:11-13; Rom.9:6-8, 22-24, 32; 10:16-17, 21; 11:1, 28-32).

The breaking off of unbelieving Israelites (partial hardening) and the grafting in of believing Gentiles (fulness of the Gentiles) occurs as a result of the First Coming of Jesus Christ (Gal.4:4-7; Gal.3:16, 26-29; Gen.12:3).