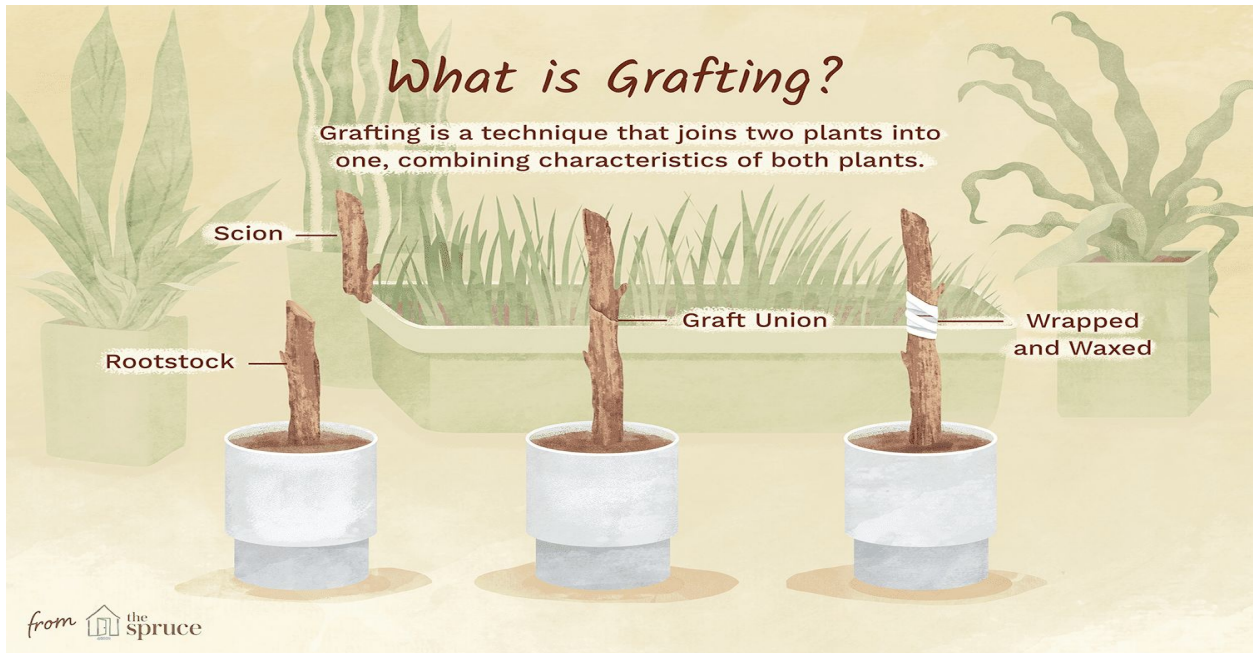
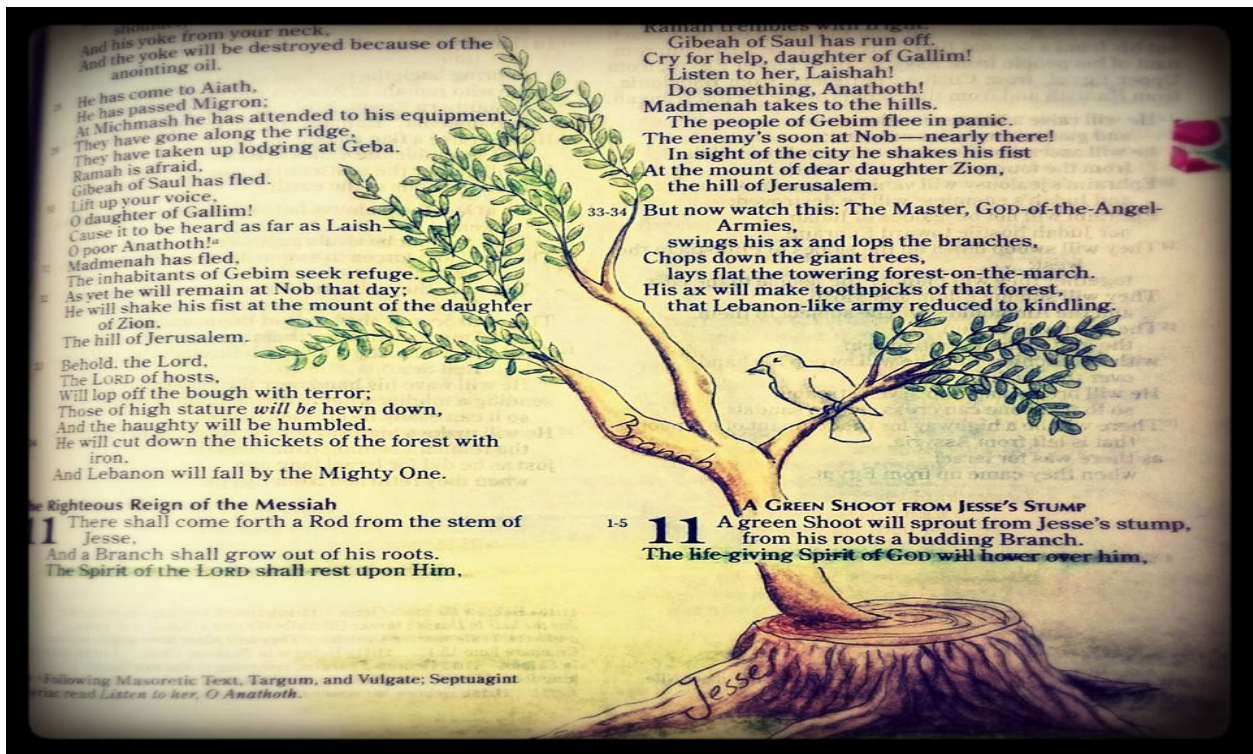


Dear Friends and Family,



Isaiah 11:1 reads:

Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,  
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.



Romans 11:17-19 states:

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

It’s important to note here that the branch that grows up from the root of Jesse does not replace the root, but grows from and is supported by the root. Here is a good article on Covenant Theology which goes along with my sermon from this past Sunday.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/covenant-theology.html>

Ultimately we must be careful in adhering strictly to ‘labels’. Our only source of truth is scripture. Therefore, Covenant Theology, Replacement Theology, Dispensationalism, or any other theological theory is only that - an interpretation of the truth of scripture. And here we must remember Paul’s advice: “Test everything!” 1 Thess. 5:21.

Day 1: READ Romans 11:1-6

What is important, as it pertains to the Jews, in Paul’s opening statement here in verse 1?

Compare verse 2 with Romans 8:29-30.

In my sermon on Sunday, I mentioned conditional and unconditional covenants. Covenant Theology calls these covenants of works (conditional) and covenants of grace (unconditional). Which is Paul describing here in verse 3-6?

Day 2: READ Romans 11:7-16

Summarize this section in your own words.

The author of the article linked above wrote:

Some have accused Covenant Theology as teaching what is called “Replacement Theology” (i.e., the Church replaces Israel). This couldn’t be further from the truth. Unlike Dispensationalism, Covenant Theology does not see a sharp distinction between Israel and the Church. Israel constituted the people of the God in the OT, and the Church (which is made up of Jew and Gentile) constitutes the people of God in the NT

What do you think about this statement based on what Paul is writing here? Look also at Romans 9:6-8.

While the covenant of grace has been extended to the Gentiles, it is extremely important to note that we do not replace Israel as God’s chosen people. God chose them for Himself. And He has plans for them yet to be fulfilled (Revelation 7).

How then are the Gentile believers related to God’s chosen people, Israel?

Day 3: READ Romans 11:17-24

We have been grafted into the root stock of Jesse. Elsewhere, Paul writes that we are adopted as sons, not biological heirs, but adopted with full rights and privileges as heirs (Gal. 4).

Verse 18 is especially important for us. We should have great compassion and sympathy toward the Jews, who are hated and oppressed from every angle, and yet reject their own Messiah. Read Romans 1:16. We have no right to be arrogant in our salvation. We have not replaced God's chosen people, but we should rejoice that we are now members along with them and fellow partakers of the grace of God.

Contrast here the kindness and severity of God. Is Paul saying we can lose our salvation? Compare this with John 15:1-6.

Scripture is the best interpreter of scripture. Read Hebrews 10:19-25. Neither Jesus nor Paul are advocating that we can lose our salvation. But they are warning us of imposters. Those wolves in sheeps clothing, branches that look like good healthy branches until they bear no fruit. Jesus even states this clearly when he says:

Matthew 7:15-20:

"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn *bushes* nor figs from thistles, are they? So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

Day 4: READ Romans 11:25-36

Paul states clearly and explicitly what has happened to Israel here in verse 25 and why. When scripture is clear we need not complicate the message. This is a partial hardening of Israel UNTIL the time of the gentiles is fulfilled.

Why does Paul say this in verse 28-29?

God's plan of salvation is laid out clearly in verse 30-32, first for the Jews, then for the gentiles.

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!  
How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!

Take time to just praise God for how great He is and how wonderful His plan of salvation.

To Him be the glory forever! AMEN

Grafted into the root of Jesse,

Pastor Matt

To read an archive of past Pastor's Point of View devotionals please visit  
<https://mplong.wordpress.com/pastors-point-of-view/>

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**Dr. Matthew Long**

Senior Pastor

[FBC of Havelock](#)

*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*