

Romans 11:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?

Analysis

Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world—paraptōma (παράπτωμα, "fall/trespass") and hēttēma (ἥττημα, **diminishing**) both describe Israel's rejection. Yet this produced ploutos (πλοῦτος, **riches**) for the world—Gentile salvation. Paul argues a fortiori (from lesser to greater): **how much more their fulness?** (pōsō mallon to plērōma autōn, πόσῳ μᾶλλον τὸ πλήρωμα αὐτῶν).

The word plērōma (πλήρωμα, "fulness") contrasts with hēttēma ("diminishing"). If Israel's diminishment blessed the world, imagine what Israel's fullness will bring! This fullness likely refers to Israel's eschatological salvation (v. 26), when the nation turns to Messiah. Paul envisions a future mass conversion that will bring even greater blessing to the world—possibly the resurrection (v. 15). Israel's future is glorious, not discarded.

Historical Context

The early church's struggle to integrate Gentile believers stemmed partly from surprise at how Israel's majority rejected Messiah. Paul reframes this: their rejection was step one in God's plan, not the conclusion. Step two—Israel's fullness—awaits.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's 'how much more' logic demonstrate God's redemptive brilliance in using Israel's fall for greater purposes?
2. What might the 'fullness' of Israel bring to the world when they are restored?
3. How should this future hope for Israel shape Christian attitudes toward Jewish evangelism today?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	δὲ	τὸ	παράπτωμα	αὐτῶν	πλοῦτος	κόσμου	καὶ
if	Now	G3588	the fall	of them	be the riches	of the world	and
G1487	G1161		G3900	G846	G4149	G2889	G2532
τὸ	ἥττημα	αὐτῶν	πλοῦτος	ἐθνῶν	πόσῳ	μᾶλλον	
G3588	the diminishing	of them	be the riches	of the Gentiles	how	much more	
	G2275	G846	G4149	G1484	G4214	G3123	
τὸ	πλήρωμα	αὐτῶν					
G3588	fulness	of them					
	G4138	G846					

Additional Cross-References

Romans 11:25 (Parallel theme): For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

Colossians 1:27 (Parallel theme): To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Ephesians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Romans 9:23 (Parallel theme): And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

Romans 11:15 (Parallel theme): For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead?

Zechariah 2:11 (Parallel theme): And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

Micah 5:7 (Parallel theme): And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men.

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