

# Romans 11:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

## Analysis

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Paul anticipates a Gentile objection: **Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in** (ereis oun, ἐρεῖς οὖν, "you will say then"). This voice represents Gentile presumption: "God removed Jews to make room for us; we're the replacements." The objector sees Jewish unbelief as creating opportunity for Gentiles, therefore something to celebrate or feel superior about. This reflects a misunderstanding of God's purposes.

Paul will respond (v. 20) by correcting this attitude. While it's true that broken branches made room for grafted ones, the Gentile's posture is wrong. The broken branches should evoke sorrow and fear (v. 20), not boasting. Paul allows the objection to be voiced fully before dismantling it—a rhetorical technique showing he understands the temptation to Gentile pride but will not tolerate it.

## Historical Context

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The question reflects real tensions in mixed Jewish-Gentile congregations. Gentile believers might have viewed Jewish unbelief as validation of their own standing. Paul attacks this root attitude, which has plagued church history (antisemitism often rooted in theological triumphalism).

## Related Passages

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[John 3:16](#) — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. Why is it dangerous to view Israel's hardening as 'making room' for Gentiles in a way that produces pride?
2. How can we acknowledge God's sovereign purposes in Israel's temporary hardening without boasting?
3. What does this verse warn about the human tendency to compare ourselves favorably to those who have fallen?

## Interlinear Text

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ἐρεῖς	οὖν	Ἐξεκλάσθησαν	οἵ	κλάδοι	ἵνα	ἐγώ
<b>Thou</b> <b>wilt</b> <b>say</b>	<b>then</b>	<b>were</b> <b>broken</b> <b>off</b>	G3588	<b>The</b> <b>branches</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>I</b>
G2046	G3767	G1575		G2798	G2443	G1473

ἐγκεντρισθῶ

**might** **be** **grafted** **in**

G1461

## Additional Cross-References

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**Romans 11:17** (Parallel theme): And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;