

# Romans 11:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?

## Analysis

---

**For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature**—ei gar sy ek tēs kata phisin exekopēs agrielaiou (εἰ γὰρ σὺ ἐκ τῆς κατὰ φύσιν ἐξεκόπης ἀγριελαίου). Paul reminds Gentiles of their origin: the wild olive, outside the covenant. **And wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree**—para phisin (παρὰ φύσιν, "contrary to nature") emphasizes the unnatural (miraculous) character of Gentile inclusion. Normal horticulture grafts cultivated branches into wild stock, not vice versa. Gentile salvation is grace-wrought, defying natural expectation.

The a fortiori climax: **how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?** (pōsō mallon houtoi hoi kata phisin enkentrishēsontai tē idia elaia, πόσῳ μᾶλλον οὗτοι οἱ κατὰ φύσιν ἐγκεντρισθήσονται τῇ ίδίᾳ ἐλαίᾳ). If the unnatural grafting succeeded, how much more certain is the natural re-grafting? Israel's restoration is not merely possible but more likely than Gentile inclusion was. God's covenant faithfulness makes Israel's future salvation certain.

## Historical Context

---

Paul's horticultural metaphor, while agriculturally backwards, makes a theological point: if God could save Gentiles (the harder case), He will certainly save Israel (the covenant people). This reverses any Gentile presumption that they are now God's 'natural' people.

## Related Passages

---

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

---

1. What does the 'unnatural' character of Gentile grafting teach about the miracle of grace?
2. How does the 'how much more' argument demonstrate God's greater commitment to Israel's restoration?
3. What assurance does this verse provide regarding God's faithfulness to His covenant promises?

## Interlinear Text

---

εἰ γὰρ σὺ ἐκ τῆς κατὰ φύσιν ἐξεκόπης  
if For thou out of G3588 by nature wert cut  
G1487 G1063 G4771 G1537 G2596 G5449 G1581

ἀγριελαίου καὶ παρὰ φύσιν ἐγκεντρισθήσονται  
the olive tree which is wild and contrary to nature branches be grafted into  
G65 G2532 G3844 G5449 G1461

εἰς καλλιέλαιον πόσῳ μᾶλλον οὗτοι οἱ κατὰ φύσιν  
into a good olive tree how much more shall these G3588 by nature  
G1519 G2565 G4214 G3123 G3778 G2596 G5449

ἐγκεντρισθήσονται τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐλαίᾳ  
branches be grafted into G3588 their own olive tree  
G1461 G2398 G1636

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)