

but eventually He is going to graft in again the natural branches. So that Paul quotes these two verses here, as proof that God's plan is simply being carried out. And that that which was predicted as long ago as Isaiah, is now finding its expression in the fact that the Gentiles are coming into the leadership in the Kingdom of God. Wild olive branches are being grafted in to the olive tree.

Now the same idea was also expressed by the Lord Himself when He was in earth. In Matthew 21, we find a chapter in which the Lord discusses this very thought. And we find that He had read Isaiah 5. Because He says in verse 33, "Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and build a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country." It certainly reminds you of Isaiah 5 doesn't it? "And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants, more than the first: and they did unto them likewise." He says that "last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, they will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, this is the heir. Come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the Lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out His vineyard unto other husbandmen which shall render Him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof."

Is that not a specific statement by the Lord Jesus Christ of exactly the same thing that is said by Paul? And referring back to the teaching in Isaiah. Well now, it seems to me that in light of that Paul says, God is fulfilling what was predicted in Isaiah 65. Isaiah 65: 1, Paul says, means the turning to the Gentiles. Now the editor of the R.S.V. doesn't think that is what it means. In the R.S.V. we read in Romans 9: 10, he says, then Isaiah is so bold as to say, I've been found by those who