**God Has A Remnant**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Romans 11:1-7**

**Wednesday Evening**

**November 6, 2024**

**Romans 11:1-7**

1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,

3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? 4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal." 5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. 7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.

**1 I say then, has God cast away His people? Certainly not! For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.**

Saints, the Jewish nation had heard words of rejection before. In the depths of their sinfulness when King Manasseh ruled the northern kingdom of Israel, God said he would forsake his people because of their sin.

**2 Kings 21:14-15**

14 So I will forsake the remnant of My inheritance and deliver them into the hand of their enemies; and they shall become victims of plunder to all their enemies, 15 because they have done evil in My sight, and have provoked Me to anger since the day their fathers came out of Egypt, even to this day.' "

Saints, indeed, Jeremiah had warned the people that God had abandoned them.

**Jeremiah 7:29**

Cut off your hair and cast it away, and take up a lamentation on the desolate heights; for the LORD has rejected and forsaken the generation of His wrath.'

Saints, with this question Paul expresses a deep concern—has God finally grown tired of Israel’s constant disobedience and rejected them forever?

Paul responds, of course not! One proof of this is Paul’s experience.

Paul had received salvation, and he was a Jew, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin.

Paul is a full-blooded Jew (who had even gone so far as to persecute Christians before he became a believer).

Surely if God was going to reject someone, Paul would have been a good choice.

But God, in his sovereignty, called Paul and rearranged his entire life.

**2 God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying,**

Saints, God did not reject his people in the days of Moses, nor in the days of the prophets.

And he is not rejecting them now. Regardless of Israel’s unfaithfulness, God always keeps his promises.

God chose Israel to be the people through whom all other nations of the world could know him. He made this promise to Abraham, their ancestor.

**Genesis 12:1-3**

1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Israel didn’t have to do anything to be chosen.

God had given them this privilege because he wanted to, not because they deserved special treatment.

**Deuteronomy 9:4-6**

4 Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, 'Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land'; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you.

5 It is not because of your righteousness or the uprightness of your heart that you go in to possess their land, but because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD your God drives them out from before you, and that He may fulfill the word which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

6 Therefore understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

Saints, God knew beforehand that Israel would be unfaithful; if God’s faithfulness to Israel was going to be dependent on their faithfulness,

God would never have chosen them in the first place. God will remain faithful to his promises to Israel, despite Israel’s failure.

**1 Corinthians 1:9**

God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"?**

Saints, Paul then reminded his readers of a time when all Israel had deserted God, but God had preserved some for himself.

After Elijah’s stunning demonstration of God’s power over Baal’s prophets at Mount Carmel (and the killing of all of Baal’s prophets), Elijah fled for his life from the wrath of Israel’s evil Queen Jezebel who threatened to have him killed.

**James 4:7-10**

7 Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded. 9 Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up

Saints, he ran for many miles and then stopped to rest. In his terror and exhaustion, he cried out to God, “Lord, they have killed your prophets and torn down your altars.

I alone am left, and now they are trying to kill me, too.” “They” actually refers to the evil leadership in the northern kingdom of Israel, but Elijah was holding the entire nation responsible for the actions of many.

He had concluded that he was the only person left in Israel who believed in God.

**4 But what does the divine response say to him? "I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."**

Saints, God shared some very important information with Elijah, replying that Elijah was not the only one left—God had seven thousand believers who had not turned to idol worship.

**1 Kings 19:18**

Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

That was not a large number, but it was a faithful “remnant.” Notice that God reserved these faithful followers for himself—the remnant existed because of his sovereign choice.

**5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.**

Saints, Just as God had preserved a few of his people when almost the entire nation had turned to idolatry, so today, God has a few who are being saved as a result of God’s kindness in choosing them.

**Ephesians 2:7-9**

7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

The Jewish believers in this faithful few are proof that God has not rejected his people.

**2 Kings 19:4**

It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the Rabshakeh, whom his master the king of Assyria has sent to reproach the living God, and will rebuke the words which the LORD your God has heard. Therefore lift up your prayer for the remnant that is left.' "

**2 Kings 19:19**

Now therefore, O LORD our God, I pray, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that You are the LORD God, You alone."

Saints, these few, saved by God’s kindness realize that they were not saved by good works. Jews who believe in Christ are not denying their faith or their heritage; instead, they are discovering what these were truly meant to be.

**6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.**

Saints, if God’s grace in choosing us depended on our works or obedience to the law, it would not be free and undeserved.

“God saved you by his special favor when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.

Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it”

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**7 What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.**

Saints, this verse provides an excellent summary of Romans 9–11. The nation had earnestly sought the favor of God by doing works of the law.

**Romans 10:2-3**

2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.

But God did not accept them. Instead, he accepted the few who had been chosen.

Israel’s failure was foreseen by God and, in fact, brought about by him.

**Romans 9:22-23**

22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, 23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

**Romans 9:33**

As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Saints, their being made unresponsive was confirmation of their inability to understand and their insensitivity to God’s word and God’s call.

Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Short Movie Slide>**

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let’s Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace.”**