

Unless the LORD Had Left Us a Seed

Rom 9.19 You will say to me then, “Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?” 20 But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, “Why have you made me like this?” 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? 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, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? 25 As He says also in Hosea: “I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved. 26 And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.” 27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.” 29 And as Isaiah said before: “Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah.”

* **What argument** is Paul addressing in Romans 9-11?

Mal 3.14 You have said, “It is useless to serve God; What profit is it that we have kept His ordinance, and that we have walked as mourners before the LORD of hosts? 15 So now we call the proud blessed, for those who do wickedness are raised up ... 2.17 ... Everyone who does evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delights in them ... Where is the God of justice?”

* **What is** the sad truth Paul is reminding Israel of in vs 20-29?

– Israel in the exodus.

– Israel at after the Red Sea.

– Israel at Sinai.

– What would a rational person advise God regarding Israel?

– Israel at Canaan.

Num 13.32 “[It] is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the

people ... are ... of great stature ... and we were like grasshoppers ...” 14.2 “If only we had died in the land of Egypt! ... 3 Why has the LORD brought us to this land to fall by the sword ...? ... Let us select a leader and return to Egypt.”

– Israel at Canaan the second time.

– Israel after Joshua’s generation is gone.

– Gibeah, city of Benjamin

– Mercenary priest

– Israel under the judges and Samuel.

– Israel under David and Solomon.

– Israel under the separate northern and southern kingdoms.

– Israel under the ministry of the prophets.

– God’s message through Hosea.

Hos 12 ... “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD.” ... 3.1 “Go again, love a woman who is loved by a lover and is committing adultery, just like the love of the LORD for the children of Israel, who look to other gods ...”

– God’s message through Ezekiel.

– The Assyrians (922BD) and the Babylonians (586BC).

– The remnant returning to Judea and Jerusalem.

– Israel in Malachi’s day.

– Israel in Jesus’ and Paul’s day.

– The Romans (70AD)

Mat 3.10 The ax is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

Luke 19.43 “[Y]our enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you ... to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

– The visitation of the LORD.

Mal 3.1 [T]he Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple ... 6 For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. 7 Yet from the days of your fathers you have gone away from My ordinances and have not kept them. Return to Me, and I will return to you ... But you said, ‘I what way shall we return?’”

Lam 3.22 Through the LORD’s mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not

– The arrest, trial, and crucifixion of Christ.

Fallen man, represented by Israel, does his worst—everything humanly possible to _____ God. In that moment, all the _____ in the history of the world are brought together in that one act. Yet God in his mercy decreed that that one act, the most wicked act of man, would be the most _____ act of God, for it is salvation to Israel and the ends of the earth.

* **Two points** from the passages Paul alludes to:

(1) It is of God’s _____ that he preserved a remnant at all. (Isa 1.9, quoted in vs 29; Isa 10.22-23, quoted in vs 29)

Isa 1.4 Alas, sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a brood of evildoers, children who are corrupters! They have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked to anger the Holy One of Israel, they have turned away backward. 5 Why should you be stricken again? You will revolt more and more. The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faints. 6 From the sole of the foot even to the head, there is no soundness in it ... 7 Your country is desolate, Your cities are burned with fire; Strangers devour your land in your presence; And it is desolate ... 9 Unless the LORD of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah ... 10.20 And it shall come to pass in that day that the remnant of Israel, and such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, will never again depend on him who defeated them, but will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. 21 The remnant will return, the remnant of Jacob, To the Mighty God. 22 For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. 23 For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land.

(2) The saving of the remnant in Hosea was a picture of God saving people from every tribe and nation in the NT.

Hosea 1.2 [T]he LORD said to Hosea: “Go, take yourself a wife of harlotry and children of harlotry, for the land has committed great harlotry by departing from the LORD. ... 4 ... I will ... bring an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel ... 6 ... I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, but I will utterly take them away ... 9 ... For you are not My people, and I will not be your God. 10 Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living God.’”

* **What kind** of clay is God the Potter working with? And what is the amazing thing that the Potter does?

Jer 18.2 “Arise and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause you to hear My words.” 3 Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel. 4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make. 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying: 6 “O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?” says the LORD. “Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel! 7 The instant I speak concerning a nation ... to destroy it, 8 if that nation ... turns from its evil, I will relent ... 9 And the instant I speak concerning a nation ... to build ... it, 10 if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent ... 11 Now therefore, speak ... to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD: “Behold, I am fashioning a disaster ... against you. Return now every one from his evil way, and make your ways and your doings good.” ’ ” 12 And they said, “That is hopeless! So we will walk according to our own plans, and we will every one obey the dictates of his evil heart.”

Eph 2.1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, 2 in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. 3 Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh ... and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7 so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in 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 as a result of works, so that no one may boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.