

“Has God Cast Away His People?”

Rom 11.1 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. 8 Just as it is written: “God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear, To this very day.” 9 And David says: “Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. 10 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always.” 11 I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

* **Paul turns** to the question of whether God in the NC has _____ away Israel, his OC people? The first way to take this question is whether the NC, with its gospel declaration that _____ those and _____ those who have faith in Jesus are saved, amounts to a repudiation of God’s promises to Abraham and Israel. How has Paul answered this?

* **The second** way to take this question is whether God has repudiated _____ due to her long history of chronic unbelief, unfaithfulness, and hardheartedness, capped off by her rejection of Jesus and persecution of the _____.

Luke 19.43 “For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within 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.” ... 21.20 But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies ... 21 [t]hen let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains ... 32 Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all [these] things take place.”

* **What is Paul’s** emphatic answer to that question? (1)

* **Than answer** gives rise to two more questions:

1) Does God now have two covenant peoples, Israel defined by the _____, and the Church defined by _____ in Christ?

2) If God has only one NC people defined by faith in Christ, doesn’t that represent a failure of God’s _____ and _____ power, given Israel’s almost whole scale rejection of Christ?

* **The first** proof Paul gives that God has not cast Israel away is use _____ as an example (Acts 9.1-20).

* **Then Paul** ties his story in with _____ in the OT? (2-5; 1Kings 19.14, 18)

* **Paul hastens** to add that God’s grace and saving power operate only toward _____, which is the defining mark of God’s one NC people (6).

* **What is Paul** alluding to by “works”? (6)

Rom 9.31 Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law.

Mat 22.37 Jesus said to him, “‘You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: ‘You shall

love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

John 6.29 Jesus answered ..., "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Mark 7.2 Now when they [the scribes and Pharisees] saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is, with unwashed hands, they found fault. 3 For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands in a special way, holding the tradition of the elders. 4 When they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash. And there are many other things which they have received and hold, like the washing of cups, pitchers, copper vessels, and couches. 5 Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, "Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashed hands?" 6 He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: [quoting Isa 29.13] 'This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. 7 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' 8 For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men — the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."

Act 10.28 Then he [Peter] said to them, "You know how unlawful [i.e., unlawful under the traditions of the elders] it is for a Jewish man to keep company with or go to one of another nation. But God has shown me that I should not call any man common or unclean."

Gal 3.6 Abraham "believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness." 7 Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. 8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham ... 16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ.

* **In vs 7-11**, Paul lays it on thick that salvation is purely a matter of God's sheer _____, apart from anything the recipient is or has done or stands to receive or inherit in their own right. Proving that fact was one of the main reasons for God calling _____ and for her long & tortured history.

* **One of the** operating principles we see in Scripture is that if one responds to the _____ God gives them, he will give them more, but if they _____ from the light, he will take away even what they have.

John 3.19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

Mat 13.12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

* **In vs 8**, Paul quotes:

Isa 29.1 "Woe to Ariel [i.e., Jerusalem], ... the city where David dwelt! ... 3 I will encamp against you all around, I will lay siege against you ... 4 You shall be brought down ... 9 ... Blind yourself and be blind! They are drunk, but not with wine ... 10 For the LORD has poured out on you the spirit of deep sleep ... 13 ... Inasmuch as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men, 14 therefore ... the wisdom of their wise men shall perish ..."

Isa 6.9 ... "Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; Lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed." 11 Then I said, "Lord, how long?" And He answered: "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant ... 13 But yet a tenth will be in it ..., as a ... tree ... whose stump remains when it is cut down. So the holy seed shall be its stump."

Psalms 69.20 I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. 21 They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. 22 Let their table become a snare before them, and their well-being a trap. [i.e., let even means of blessing be a means of judgment] 23 Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see; And make their loins shake continually ... 25 Let their dwelling place be desolate ...

* **In vs 11-12**, Paul is saying in effect that Israel was called to be God's _____ of life to all nations, but thru her sin and hardness she _____ up the river. But God sovereignly overflowed the banks, bringing his living water directly to the _____ nations. Moreover, God intends to use the Gentiles to flood _____ herself, so that she becomes the river of life she was called to be in the first place.