

# Romans 11:1-5

## The Remnant of Israel

### 1. 11:1 – Is Israel Cast Away

- a. Rom 10 concerned Israel's rejection of Christ, and God's refusal to save without faith.
- b. Rom 10:19-21 leaves Israel with no excuse in their state of enmity with God.
  - i. Hosea and Isaiah prophesied when faithless Israel lost their kingdom in the OT.
  - ii. But also prophesied of their return and eternal salvation. Hos 6:2, 14:2, 4-7
- c. *"Hath God cast away his people?"* Is God done with Israel? Are they forever condemned?
- d. *"God forbid"* which challenges every replacement or rejection of the people of Israel.
- e. Rom 11 addresses the future return of Israel, their fulness, how God receives them back.

### 2. 11:1 – Paul, the Israelite

- a. *"For I also am an Israelite..."* - Paul uses himself as proof that God is not against them.
- b. God did not cast away his people. His people cast him away. (No Christ. No kingdom.)
- c. Beware the error that Israel's salvation is fulfilled in Paul (a member of a mystery Body)
  - i. That Paul was an Israelite does not make you one.
- d. He is not claiming to be part of the prophesied remnant, but a part of Rom 10:2-3, 10:21
- e. Paul, an Israelite in unbelief, disobedient, gainsaying, chief sinner, is now received by God.
  - i. He was an Israelite saved by faith, but that acc. to a mystery not by MMLJ or Acts 2.
  - ii. Paul describes his salvation as "one born out of due time" – 1 Cor 15:8-10
  - iii. One day all Israel will be saved by the appearing of Christ. Paul was one saved early.
- f. Though their promised salvation has not come, God has not left them without recourse.

### 3. 11:2-4 – A Prophesied Remnant

- a. *"his people"* - Important to acknowledge that this is Israel of v1,2, not Calvin's elect.
- b. *"which he foreknew"* – This foreknowledge concerns Israel's promised kingdom destiny.
  - i. He afore prepared to love Jacob (Israel), make two vessels of Israel, one for mercy.
- c. *"the scripture saith of Elijah..."* - Paul again quotes prophecy to explain Israel. 1Ki 19:14, 18
- d. *"intercession to God against Israel"* – Elijah brings true accusation against Israel in v3
- e. v3 - *"Killed thy prophets... seek my life"* - All this could have been the Lord's claim as well...
  - i. Instead, the Lord's prayer in John 17:6 rejoices in the faithful little flock - Lk 12:32
- f. v4 - *"I have reserved"* - Instead of casting Israel away corrupt and rebellious he saves some
  - i. God's reserves of faithful Israel, Elijah's remnant, took over the kingdom - 2Ki 10:28
  - ii. Acc. to his promises, God gives grace to Israel thru small thousands - Acts 4:4,7-12

### 4. 11:5 – A Present Remnant

- a. *"at this present time"* - That time is not now your time. (A dispensation is not a time.)
  - i. Paul knows who this is, because he slaughtered them (like Jezebel) - Acts 9:1
- b. *"Even so... also"* - As in the days of Elijah, as the prophets spoke since the world began
  - i. Don't make the OT remnant foreshadow the Body of Christ. You are not Israel.
  - ii. Prophetic types in Israel ("as\_\_ so\_\_") don't speak to mystery kept secret. Col 2:17
- c. *"there is a remnant"* – Of what? The contextual answer is Israel, but this is NT Israel.
  - i. The Body of Christ (a new creature, new man) is not a remnant of anything.
  - ii. The dispensation of grace does not create a remnant of Israel, but a new thing.

- d. *“according to the election of grace”* – This remnant not according to mystery given Paul.
  - i. God gave grace to Israel in the time of Ahab through Elijah’s remnant.
    - 1. Elijah is the prophet that returns to restore Israel - Mal 4:5, Luke 1:16-17
  - ii. He gives grace in the time of Caiaphas through Christ’s Spirit filled little flock.
    - 1. The new covenant teaching was a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance (grace) to Israel - Acts 2:36-39
    - 2. Peter adding to the remnant saved from “an untoward generation” of Israel.
  - iii. God gave grace to Saul, a blaspheming Israelite, according to a mystery.
  - iv. God requires faith, Israel did not have it (Rom 10), but is gracious to save (Rom 11)