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## Has God Cast Ethnic Israel Away?

*Romans, Part XL*

Romans 11:1-10

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### I. Reviewing Romans

*"For I am not ashamed of the Gospel for it is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes... For in it the righteousness of God is revealed..." (1:16-17).*

#### A. Creation – Under Privilege

God created us with minds, consciences, and imaginations which enable us to reason, make moral judgments, and perceive beauty. Every human being is *under* \_\_\_\_\_.

#### B. Fall – Under Sin and Under Wrath (1:18-3:20)

However, we have all rebelled against God. Our hearts are corrupt and we are awash in *idolatry, ingratitude, and immorality*. Hence, we are all, by nature, under *God's* \_\_\_\_\_.

#### C. Redemption – Under Grace (3:21-4:25)

Because we are all deserving of judgment, God sent His Son to rescue us from our slavery to sin by enduring God's just wrath. By faith in Him we can be \_\_\_\_\_.

#### D. Restoration / Glorification (5:1-8:39)

God's plan of redemption doesn't end with justification. Christ shall lead His people to \_\_\_\_\_ by His resurrection power granted by His Spirit.

### II. The Problem of Israel's Widescale Apostasy (Romans 9-11)

In Romans 9-11, Paul addresses God's dealings with ethnic Israel. He argues, first, (9:1-13) that God never made a blanket promise of personal salvation to every ethnic Jew. Paul notes that according to the Scriptures, *"They are not all \_\_\_\_\_ who are of Israel."* In electing Israel as His covenant people, God retained His sovereign freedom to distinguish one Israelite from another – to \_\_\_\_\_ *one unto glory and to reject another.*

So is this unjust? Certainly not! (9:14-21) All are corrupt. God in His mercy elects some to be *vessels of mercy prepared for glory* while He rejects others in His justice to be *vessels of wrath prepared for destruction* (9:22-24). Behold the kindness and the severity of God.

Does God's sovereignty free Israel from responsibility and guilt? *By no means!* (9:30-10:21) Like Adam, Israel refused to *harken unto* the Gospel they *heard* preached (10:16-17). Rather than trust in God's Sacrificial Servant to reconcile them to God, Israel repeatedly strove *"to establish their own righteousness"* (10:3). So God says to Israel, *"All day long I have stretched out My hands to a disobedient and contrary people"* (10:21). Israel has been persistently rebellious.

Romans 11:1–10

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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, <sup>3</sup>“LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life”? <sup>4</sup>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.” <sup>5</sup>Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. <sup>6</sup>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.

<sup>7</sup>What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. <sup>8</sup>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.” <sup>9</sup>And David says: “Let their table become a snare and a trap, A stumbling block and a recompense to them. <sup>10</sup>Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, And bow down their back always.”

### III. Has God Cast Israel Away?

If ethnic Israel has been repeatedly rebellious against God, has God completely cast Israel away? Are they beyond salvation? Certainly not!

- A. God’s Elect Remnant Reveals He Has not cast Israel away (1-6)
- B. God’s Just Judgment on Reveals His Righteousness (7-10)

### IV. Application

- A. Remember God’s Promise to His Elect (11:2, 5-6 cf. 8:28-30; Ex 34:6-7)

First, remember that God’s promises to His \_\_\_\_\_ never fail. “*God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew*” (11:2). God’s *foreknowledge* is His eternal love:

<sup>28</sup>And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup>For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. <sup>30</sup>Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

- B. Pray for Ethnic Israelites’ Salvation (cf. 10:1-4)

Second, Paul reminds us to pray for ethnic Israelites’ salvation. God has His \_\_\_\_\_ in Israel too. Even as there were Jewish believers in Paul’s day, so there are in our own.

- C. Maintain a God-Centered Perspective on Unbelief (cf. 9:1-3; 10:1)

Finally, Paul reminds us to maintain a God-centered perspective on unbelief. Paul’s grief at his kinsmen’s unbelief did not cause him to despair. He recognized that their current unbelief was a result of God’s judgment (11:7-8). Hence, their salvation or damnation were outside of his hands. The \_\_\_\_\_ would listen; the rest would be blinded. Our task is to be faithful not to be successful and to pray that God would thwart the efforts of those who are fighting against His purposes (11:9-10).

### V. Conclusion