**ROMANS 11**

***June 29, 2022***

Romans 11:1-

1. I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
2. God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,
3. Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life.
4. But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.
5. Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.
6. And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace; otherwise is no more works.

It is in the background of the closing verses of Romans 10 that we get into chapter 11. Paul quotes from Isaiah, “All day long I have stretched forth my hands unto a disobedient and gainsaying people” and thus we get into:

***Questioning the Text***

*‘I say then, Hath God cast away His people?’*

“God forbid”

*Why?*

“For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.”

*what kind of people are Israelites described as?*

“His people which He foreknew”

*And what hath God not done?*

“God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew”

*“Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel”, and what does he say?*

“saying, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars”

*As Elijah thinks to himself, is there anyone left, who stands for God and His truth?*

“And I am left alone, and they seek my life.”

*‘But what saith the answer of God unto him’?*

“I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.”

*From this that was written aforetime, what can we learn for our comfort and admonition at the present?*

“Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace”

*‘And if by grace’, what is it not?*

*“then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace.”*

*‘But if it be of works’?*

“then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

*No one Cast Away -* From the conclusion of the previous chapter, one may be hasty to conclude that God has “cast away His people”. But is it so?? “By no means”, but how can we know that? He that writes these words by inspiration, a preacher to the Gentiles, an Apostle of Christ, is “an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin”. By the very fact that Paul preaches to the Gentiles, that unto him is committed grace and apostleship, is a conclusive proof that God had not cast away the nation of Israel, but that as the Lord says, “Him that cometh to Me I will in nowise cast out” John 6:37.

*Case Study of Elijah -* Jezebel and the children of Israel had slain the prophets of the Lord. Elijah had been preserved by the mighty power of God. He had been in the care of God for three and a half years during the famine in Israel. Then after Mount Carmel, he flees from the threatening of Jezebel, and goes in hiding to a cave. Then being there, the Lord asks him “What doest thou here, Elijah?” and his reply to God is “I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.” 1 Kings 19:10. It is later that the LORD tells him, “Yet I have left Me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have bot bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.”

So also in like a manner, all Israel may have seemed to have rejected the Gospel and Christ, but God had a people which were true to Him and the His course. And how was this remnant? “according to the election of grace”. They had made their election and their calling sure, and this election and calling was by grace. And we know that the “grace of God which bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts we should live soberly righteously in this present world.”, and as such, it is only those that accept of the grace of God that hath appeared to them, that make their calling and election sure. “And if by grace, than is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more of grace: otherwise work is no more work”.

So also is it today. When the whole world seems so to stand as against God, He, has left Himself a remnant. His grace is manifest to all, but a few only receive of that grace, and submit themselves to God, to make their calling and their election sure. How do we stand in such a time as ours? Can we be numbered among the ‘seven thousand’ that have not bowed to Baal? Can we be counted among the remnant according to the election of grace? Yes we may if we truly have received of the grace of God, if we have rested in Him and committed our lives to Him as our Father and Creator, to our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Are you fully consecrated to Him? Is your life fully His? Does He have full control? Is He your strength, your hope, your desire?