**ISRAEL’S FUTURE** **Scripture: Romans 11 Date: 9/17/17 SUNDAY AM**

What about the future of the God’s people, the Jews? Has God *rejected* them forever? Does Israel (as a nation) have a place in God’s prophetic calendar? Will Israel be saved? According to the Scriptures we live in the last days. We have been in the last days for over two thousand years! At the same time the Bible teaches us that Jesus may come today! There are no prophetic events standing in the way of His coming! As the prophets say, “Prepare to meet thy God!”

**Can God be trusted?**

Here in Romans 11 Paul shares with us that God indeed does have a plan for Israel! Ultimately, Israel will be saved! During the 7 years of tribulation, as it is taught in Revelation 6-19, God protects and provides salvation for His people. The Tribulation Period unfolds for us the details of God’s judgment upon the nations, while at the same time He sovereignly saves His people Israel.

**Mark A. Copeland** helps us with the connection between Romans 10-11. *Paul concluded chapter ten with a quotation from Isaiah describing the nation of Israel as "a disobedient and contrary people." Paul begins chapter eleven by giving several examples to show that despite this rebellion God* ***has not*** *totally rejected His people (****1-6****).*

Here in Romans 11 Paul emphatically says, God has NOT “cast away” His people Israel! He explains why he believes this!

**Acts 9, 22, 26**

**I. FIRST, WE SEE PAUL’S SALVATION – 11:1**

* **Romans 11:1** 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.
* **STRUGGLE:** Paul is in a very challenging position with this question: *Why are the Gentiles being saved and Israel is not?*
* **OR** maybe this question, *“Israel is not saved, has God failed?”*
* Paul tells us that his salvation experience is proof that God has not forsaken or “cast away” His people.

**This is God’s way of *saying and showing* that HE is still at work in His people Israel!**

* Notice the question Paul asks… “Hath God cast away His people?”
* His answer is abundantly clear… it’s an emphatic NO!

**I am Exhibit A… He saved me, didn’t He?**

* Paul makes it clear that he is a Jew… he is of Jewish descent!

**HERE’S PROOF!**

* **11:1** ~ “Israelite” = carries deep meaning for Paul!

**Notice the words Paul uses…**

* **11:1** ~ “of the seed of (Father) Abraham”
* **11:1** ~ “of the tribe of Benjamin”
* The Apostle’s ancestral connections cannot be denied **AND GOD SAVED HIM!** Paul’s entire background (ancestry, heritage) speaks against the idea of God “casting away” Israel from Himself!
* **KEY:** Paul does not claim his Jewish roots as the reason God saved him. Paul would be the first to say that he brought nothing to his salvation except his sins!!!

This is also true for each of us as well! **WE BRING NOTHING TO OUR SALVATION BUT OUR SINS!!!**

* **Listen to Paul as he testifies in 1 Timothy 1:13-16,** Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. 14 And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. 15 This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. 16 Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.
* On the other hand, possessing a Jewish heritage did not hinder his salvation either.
* **REMEMBER…** God made a series of promises to Israel! Paul’s conversion was the fruit of those promises. (Romans 9)
* **NO…** God has not rejected His own… HE SAVED PAUL… GOD IS STILL AT WORK TO THIS DAY SAVING ISRAEL IN REMNANT FORM!
* Paul is saying, “If you argue that God has rejected the Jews, then how do you explain my conversion? I’m as Jewish as you can be, and yet God saved me.” **Pastor Steven J. Cole**

**…says that God has NOT “cast away” Israel!**

* **FIRST, WE SEE PAUL’S SALVATION – 11:1**

**II. SECONDLY, WE SEE ISRAEL’S ELECTION – 11:2**

* **Romans 11:2** 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,
* **QUESTION:** Has Israel as a nation turned to God? The answer to that question is **NO!** **The WHOLE nation… NO!**
* **BUT**, God has a chosen a remnant to call HIS OWN! God has always possessed a remnant, and a remnant has always possessed redemption through faith in Christ!
* The success and failure of this idea of a “believing remnant” rests upon an ACT of God!!! ***God’s initiative….***
* **11:2** ~ Paul introduces us to a KEY WORD **“FOREKNEW.”**
* **Romans 9** speaks of a *minority* of God’s people being saved. Here in chapter 11, Paul reintroduces us to the idea of saved Israel being a “remnant” of God’s people.
* Here we see that God ***foreknew*** that this “remnant” would accept their Messiah.

**We should keep in mind that God never promised that everyone would be saved!**

* We could say it this way… God *foreordained* to bring His people to salvation!
* **LESSON:** There is more to God’s foreknowledge than to foresee!
* The word **“foreknow”** suggests a predetermined and preplanned love relationship” between God and His chosen people!

**Let me explain!**

* **Deuteronomy 7:6 makes this clear,** “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.
* Has God “cast away” His people? **NO**, they are special objects of His divine love through their Messiah Jesus!
* **TRUTH: God cannot forsake the very nation through whom He has chosen to send Israel’s Messiah!**

**…says that God has NOT “cast away” Israel!**

* **FIRST, WE SEE PAUL’S SALVATION – 11:1**
* **SECONDLY, WE SEE ISRAEL’S ELECTION – 11:2**

**III. THIRDLY, WE SEE ELIJAH’S CRISIS – 11:2B-4**

* **Romans 11:2-4** God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew. Wot ye not what the Scripture saith of Elias? How he (Elijah) maketh *intercession* to God *against* Israel, saying, 3 Lord, they (Israel) 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.*
* **Let’s listen in on Elijah from 1 Kings 19:14** And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of Hosts: *because 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.*

**Notice how the Lord uses Elijah the prophet to teach us about Israel’s salvation!**

* **11:2 ~ First, Elijah’s Intercession**
* Elijah wanted God to judge Israel!

**(King Ahab and Queen Jezebel)**

* Israel’s leadership was steeped in unbelief and paganism!
* They had rejected God’s message through Elijah, and they should pay for it!
* Elijah intercedes **“against”** Israel!
* **11:3 ~ Second, Elijah’s Indictment**
* **YOU** have not judged Israel for their sin! **YOU** have left me alone… how could **YOU** do this to me?
* They deserve judgment, and by the way Lord, **YOU** left me alone; **YOU** forgot about me!
* **11:4 ~ Thirdly, God’s Instruction**
* **Tim Keller writes,** “There has always been in Israel a ‘faithful remnant,’ the *spiritual Israel* within Israel… even during times when it seemed that Israel had utterly rejected God, and He them.”
* **Sometimes we can’t always see God’s work going on around us!**
* **LESSON:** God always has a remnant that will honor His name and His Messiah!

**…says that God has NOT “cast away” Israel!**

* This remains true today!
* **FIRST, WE SEE PAUL’S SALVATION – 11:1**
* **SECONDLY, WE SEE ISRAEL’S ELECTION – 11:2**
* **THIRDLY, WE SEE ELIJAH’S CRISIS – 11:2B-4**

**IV. FOURTHLY, WE SEE GOD’S GRACE EXTENDED – 11:5-6**

* **Romans 11:5-6** 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 work is no more work.
* **Romans 11:5-6** So too *at the present time* there is a remnant, chosen by grace. 6 But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.
* **NOTE:** “at this present time” In Paul’s day **AND** in our day God has **NOT** “cast away” His people!
* **11:5 ~ First, Election of Grace =** Remnant according to election
* Election and redemption are based on GRACE! They always have been and forever will be!
* **Romans 9:27 says,** Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, *a remnant shall be saved:*
* **11:6 ~ Second, Redemption by Grace**
* **TRUTH:** Man has made his best effort to twist God’s plan of election and redemption by GRACE!
* **Steven Kreloff explains,** “Unlike the majority of Israelites who try to merit God’s favor by their good works, the remnant trust Christ to save them by His grace. They understand that grace stands alone, apart from good works. Grace and works are mutually exclusive.”
* God by His grace always preserves a remnant!
* **POINT:** This chosen remnant’s presence is proof that God has not “cast away” His people. Election is still election, and grace is still grace, and it always will be!
* Paul and Elijah are both examples of the minority being saved THROUGH faith in God! Grace was grace in the OT and grace is grace in the NT!
* **Adoniram Judson,** who spent his life taking the Gospel to Burma, once said in the midst of his many trials, “The future is as bright as the promises of God” (cited in Christian History & Biography [Spring, 2006], pp. 6, 40). He didn’t live to see much visible fruit for his years of hardship. But today, with only 49 million people, Burma has over 2 million Baptists, the third largest number of any nation. Only the United States and India have more (ibid., p. 40). Judson, who believed in God’s sovereign grace, knew that His promises could not fail. *So no matter what your trials, if you have received God’s grace in Christ, you have a bright future because His promises cannot fail.*
* **THOUGHT PROVOKING QUESTIONS…** Do you think it's easier for God to love you when you're good? Do you secretly suspect that God chose you because you deserved it? Do you think some people's behavior is so bad that God couldn't possibly save them? *If you ever think this way, you don't entirely understand that salvation is by grace, a free gift. It cannot be earned, in whole or in part; it can only be accepted with thankfulness and praise.* Life Application Study Bible.

**…says that God has NOT “cast away” Israel!**

* **FIRST, WE SEE PAUL’S SALVATION – 11:1**
* **SECONDLY, WE SEE ISRAEL’S ELECTION – 11:2**
* **THIRDLY, WE SEE ELIJAH’S CRISIS – 11:2B-4**
* **FOURTHLY, WE SEE GOD’S GRACE EXTENDED – 11:5-6**