

“Has God cast off His People?”

Romans 11:1-10:

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>[a]</sup> <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>[b]</sup> <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.<sup>[c]</sup> 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>[d]</sup>

<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.”

The answer to the question of whether God has cast off His people is: God forbid. Paul first gives himself as an example of the fact that God has not cast off His chosen people—Paul knew he was of the tribe of Benjamin and he was a Jew. Paul then points out God’s foreknowledge. If God’s foreknowledge of us as individuals cannot fail, neither can it fail when it comes to this nation of Israel which He foreknew in ages past. So it is a fact that His foreknowledge does not allow Him to cast them off; they may be set aside, but He will bring them back.

An Old Testament illustration comes from the life of Elijah, who thought that he was the only believer left in Israel. God set him straight—there were 7000 others. Paul says that even so there are believers that are Jewish in the church of his day.

In verse 7, it says that Israel did not obtain what it was seeking. Israel was seeking for righteousness, but the majority had not found it. Despite that there is a saved remnant. God’s promises are never forgotten. We can be sure of that today.