

Has God Cast off Israel Romans 11:1-6

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

The question of what God's plan for Israel is concerned has been one that has divided scholars for generations. There have been attempts to spiritualize the promises made to Israel in the Old Testament and apply them to the church in general.

I remember, when I was going to seminary, one student who thought of Israel as a cursed people. If you study church history you will find that Jews have been oppressed by some of the protestant churches as well as the Catholic Church.

In the days of Columbus the Jews were expelled from Spain without property or compensation for their land.

Most Christians today have adopted a much more generous view concerning Israel.

But still some of the main line denominations with billions of dollars of endowments to invest make sure that none of it is invested in any Israelis companies and some go so far as to not invest in companies who do a lot of dealings with Israel.

But what does Paul have to say about all of this.

This is a two part message. One part today and another part in a few weeks.

- I. What question is he asking?
- II. How does he answer?
 - A. How do some answer?
 1. Some groups think that God gave Israel their chance and they missed it.
 2. Some think that the promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Israel have been transferred to modern day Christians.
 - B. Paul answers in the most emphatic, "Certainly Not."
 1. In the Greek you cannot express this in any stronger language.

III. The reasons he lists.

- A. Paul is an Israelite of the tribe of Benjamin, had God cast Israel off Paul would not be a believer.
- B. God always has a remnant according to grace reserved to Himself.
 - 1. “Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, 3 "LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life"? 4 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."”
 - 2. So although most of Israel were still in unbelief there were some who believed.
 - 3. And so it will be till God brings us to the end of time.
 - 4. Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: “The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

IV. Other reasons.

- A. God has committed Himself to certain promises through covenants.
 - 1. God made a covenant with Abram, Abraham.
 - a. Genesis 12:1-4 (NKJV) 1 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. 2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." 4 So Abram departed as the LORD had spoken to him, and Lot went with him. And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.
 - b. Genesis 15:18-21 (NKJV) 18 On the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying: "To your descendants I have given this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates-- 19 the Kenites, the Kenezites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."
 - 2. God made a covenant with Isaac.
 - a. Genesis 26:24 And the LORD appeared to him the same night and said, “I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you. I will bless you and multiply your descendants for My

servant Abraham's sake." 25 So he built an altar there and called on the name of the LORD, and he pitched his tent there; and there Isaac's servants dug a well.

3. God made a covenant with Jacob, Israel.
 - a. Genesis 28:13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. 14 "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed. 15 "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you."
4. No one forced God to make those promises, He did it freely.
5. God did it with full knowledge of the unbelief that Israel would display.

B. God cannot lie.

1. Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
2. Malachi 3:6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

C. Because God knows all things, nothing ever surprises God.

1. But someone will say but Israel did not hold up their end of the deal.
2. The problem is that the covenants made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were not conditioned on the response of their descendants, as far as keeping the covenant in effect.
3. God knew of their unfaithfulness and made provisions for that.
4. Deuteronomy 30:1-3 (NKJV) 1 "Now it shall come to pass, when all these things come upon you, the blessing and the curse which I have set before you, and you call them to mind among all the nations where the LORD your God drives you, 2 and you return to the LORD your God and obey His voice, according to all that I command you today, you and your children, with all your heart and with all your soul, 3 that the LORD your God will bring you back from captivity, and have compassion on you, and gather you again from all the nations where the LORD your God has scattered you.

D. God is not impotent but omnipotent.

1. Some may say well God did the best He could but He could just not carry out His plan.
2. Nahum 1:3 (NKJV) 3 The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit the wicked. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.
3. Deuteronomy 32:39 (NKJV) 39 'Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
4. Daniel 4:35 (NKJV) 35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, "What have You done?"

E. God is faithful.

1. 1 Samuel 12:22 (NKJV) 22 For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.
2. Psalm 94:14 (NKJV) 14 For the LORD will not cast off His people, Nor will He forsake His inheritance.
3. Jeremiah 31:37 (NKJV) 37 Thus says the LORD: "If heaven above can be measured, And the foundations of the earth searched out beneath, I will also cast off all the seed of Israel For all that they have done, says the LORD.
4. Therefore we can also put our trust in Him.
5. Do you trust Him today with you soul, with your life?