

## Parson to Person

### ROMANS 11 PART 5

*“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. 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, ‘LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life’? 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.’ Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 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.*

*What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded. 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.’ And David says: ‘Let their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling block and a recompense to them. Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, and bow down their back always.’*

*I say then, have they stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!*

*For I speak to you Gentiles; inasmuch as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. And if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them, and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you.*

*You will say then, ‘Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in.’ Well said. Because of unbelief they were broken off, and you stand by faith. Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be cut off. And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again. For if you were cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and were grafted contrary to nature into a cultivated olive tree, how much more will these, who are natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?*

*For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. 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; for this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.’ Concerning the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but concerning the election they are beloved for the sake of the fathers. For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.*

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out! ‘For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor?’ ‘Or who has first given to Him and it shall be repaid to him?’ For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen” (Romans 11:1–36 NKJV).*

One of the great tragedies of pulpits that poorly handle the word of God is the confusion and discouragement believers experience via mistranslation and lack of Biblical understanding. A perfect example of this is what occurs when believers are taught that the Bible is a “love letter” written directly to them and, moreover, when believers take Scriptural passages by personal application when no individualized focus is appropriate. An example of how this can occur is found in Romans 11.

Paul wrote to the Romans and said, *“Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either”* (vs. 21). The focus of this passage is the consequences Israel suffered as a result of their unbelief and the reverential fear Rome (Italy) should demonstrate toward God lest they do the same.

Moreover, contained within this injunction is a warning the Romans should heed: do not ridicule and/or reject Israel during their time of discipline.

Although this warning may apply to any Gentile nation—and/or by extension to unregenerated individuals among the nations—it does not apply to regenerated believers from this dispensation: The Church Age. (Church Age believers are eternally secure in Jesus and will never be “cut off.”)

The “Sheep and Goat Judgment,” found in Matthew 25, aptly describes the time when nations—and by default individuals within those nations—will be evaluated and either rewarded or punished for their treatment of Israel. This will occur after the Tribulation and will not include any Church Age believers.

Antisemitism has been a worldwide problem since the nation was brought into existence. Satan himself is the force behind the hatred. He has used many to reject, persecute, and make repeated attempts to annihilate Israel. His influence reaches through the fallen angels, and all the nations of people who reject the truth found only in the Scriptures—opting for rebellion against the Lord. However, he will be defeated and God will faithfully keep His promises to Israel—she will never be extinguished.

Sadly, many Christians have been influenced by weak or faulty teaching that has led to open rejection of Israel—and the associated anti-Semitic persecution she has suffered throughout the Church Age. Replacement Theology has contributed to the problem—which suggests God’s permanent rejection of Israel and His work with the Church as her replacement. Replacement Theology is a heretical error that cannot be tolerated for if God does not keep His promises (Covenants) with Israel, He lied to Abraham—and to all of Israel. If so, this would prove that God cannot be trusted and/or is a false god incapable of offering salvation to those who believe.

I still find it troubling that so many pastors/leaders suggest that God has abandoned Israel—especially when reading Romans 9, 10, and 11. It should be clear to all believers that God has not forsaken Israel and never will.

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul