

ISRAEL'S REJECTION IS TEMPORARY

ROMANS 11:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

Having finished Romans 10, this morning we move into chapter 11, the third of three chapters that Paul has devoted to the nation of Israel and her part in God's plan of redemption. Chapters 9 and 10 left things looking bleak for Israel. Israel had stumbled over the Stumbling Stone, which is Jesus Christ, rejecting Him as their Messiah. She refused God's offer of grace and sought for their own righteousness by their own standard. Even though God held out His hands to receive His people they were disobedient and obstinate and refused and rejected Him.

Because of this God has set the nation of Israel aside for a time, but there are still unconditional promises God has not yet fulfilled for Israel. In chapter 1, Paul makes it abundantly clear that the setting aside of Israel is temporary, that God is not finished with His chosen and beloved people yet, they still have a future in which God will fulfill all His promises to the nation. Paul shows us that this setting aside is only temporary and partial by first using himself as an example, giving us an example of God preserving a remnant of believing Jews from the Old Testament and then next week God's revelation in the Old Testament of the unbelieving Jews whose hearts are hardened to God's grace.

I. A LIVING EXAMPLE (Romans 11:1)

- Paul begins this chapter by asking a rhetorical _____.
- Paul immediately answers his own question, and again he uses that phrase which was the strongest _____ in the Greek language.
- Paul then immediately launches into his first example, a _____ example, that God has not thrust away or cast away Israel completely and permanently.

Paul goes on to establish his identity as an Israelite, he was not a _____ to Judaism, he was a Jew by _____.

II. AN HISTORICAL EXAMPLE (Romans 11:2-5)

- Paul moves on in verse 2 to give us another example that God's setting _____ of Israel as a nation is only temporary and partial.
- Paul begins verse two by giving another _____ to the question he asked in verse one. (1 Samuel 12:22; Psalm 94:14)
- This word translated "foreknew" as used in Scripture means more than just to be aware of something beforehand but also means to _____ beforehand that it will come to pass. (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)
- Paul goes on in verse two to give us an historical example of God preserving for Himself a _____ of believing Jews. (1 Kings 19)
- We have other examples of the Lord preserving for Himself a _____ in Israel. (Acts 6:7)
- Paul, after speaking of the remnant of 7000 that God had preserved for Himself in Elijah's day, writes, "*In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to God's gracious _____.*" (Romans 11:5, NASB95)
- This phrase "gracious choice" could be translated and is in the King James version as the "_____ of grace." (Ephesians 1:3-4)

CONCLUSION:

As we consider what we have learned this morning we understand that God's rejection of the nation of Israel is only temporary, it is a setting aside during this dispensation of grace, or the age of the church, but Israel as a nation chosen by the Lord does have a future. Paul has shown by his own salvation and by the remnant of Jewish believers that have always existed that God has not completely and permanently cast away from Himself the nation that He chose to be His people. Just as He chose Paul, an Israelite to be a believer, to be saved by grace through faith, so He has chosen by His grace and sovereignty countless other Jews throughout history to put their trust in Him and

receive His offer of grace, to put their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord, their Messiah, and their Savior.

As you consider this, consider also that if you are a believer God chose you as well, not on the basis of who you are, not on the basis of your spiritual worthiness, not on the basis of what you have done or will do, but before the foundation of the world He chose you to be holy and blameless before Him. He chose you out of love to become His child. Listen again to Paul's words in Ephesians 1, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. **In love He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself**, according to the kind intention of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*" (Ephesians 1:3–6, NASB95) God graciously and sovereignly chose you in love to be His own, to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ. Remember what Paul told the Romans in Romans 8:29-30, "*For those whom He [God] foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.*" (Romans 8:29–30, NASB95) Never forget that God chose you in eternity past in love long before you could choose Him.