

## **Romans 11:1-5 – The Future of Israel**

TSK, GreekLexicon, Rienecker, Gaebelstein, Steele, Hendriksen, Vincent, Trapp, Robertson, Poole, PNT, Newell, Henry, Geneva, JFB, Family, Calvin

Beloved in the Lord:

**Some Jews trusted in their *covenant relations* with God for their salvation.**

**Other Jews trusted in their *biological relations* with Abraham for their salvation.**

These things, they thought, allowed them to live immoral lives, pursuing wealth, and crushing widows, orphans, and foreigners.

**But they were told in unequivocal terms salvation was *not either through covenant relations or through biological relations*.**

They were also told ***all men were on equal footing before God for salvation*** and both Jews and Gentiles had to ***put their trust in Jesus Christ alone for the forgiveness of sins***.

**So where is the state of Israel today, considering God's strong condemning language against them?** Let's hear about that from God's Word.

Our headings are:

**Israel has not been abandoned at present**

**Israel was not abandoned in the past**

**Israel will not be abandoned in the future**

Our goals are: ***That you will not exalt the Jewish nation as superior because of their historical relationships, but you will promote the Gospel to them so they can be saved from their sins through Jesus Christ alone.***

**Israel has not been abandoned at present**

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...**

**1. Has God done away with the Jews for rejecting of him and trusting in other things for their salvation?**

The answer is obvious. No! **God has not done away with Israel.**

They were a rotten nation, but God has not cast or pushed them away forever.

**God has not repudiated his relationship with them.**

Psalm 94: 4 They utter speech, and speak insolent things; **All the workers of iniquity** boast in themselves.<sup>14</sup> For **the LORD will not cast off His people**, Nor will He forsake His inheritance.

1 Samuel 12:22 "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. Why did God not cast off the Israelites?

*God did not cast Israel off because he foreloved them. He cast off many, but not all.* There was always a remnant.

They were awful, but God was awesome! They were God's special people.

Romans 8:29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Look at his love: Exodus 4:22, 19:6; Deuteronomy 14:2, 26:18; Psalm 135:4; Isaiah 43:20; Hosea 11:1

God was even loving when he punished Israel.

## 3. Apostle Paul proved God had not abandoned Israel as he, a true citizen of Israel, was not abandoned.

Philippians 3:5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, **a Hebrew of the Hebrews**; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

He emphasized he was from the **tribe of Benjamin for a reason- the smallest tribe.**

If God would still save him, then God would surely save people from the larger and more prominent tribes of Israel.

## 4. Lessons:

*a. Just as God never abandons the Jews who have faith in Christ, God will never abandon his Gentile children who have faith in Christ.*

He chose you; he will keep you forever (as individuals and as a church).

It doesn't matter how far you have fallen into sin, he will bring you back.

That is the depth of his love.

**b. This means the gates of hell cannot destroy the true Israel, his church, Jews and Gentiles who rest on their Covenant Keeper, Jesus Christ.**

Even the extreme wickedness of the world – wicked governments and false religions, cannot bring the church to an end. Jews and Gentiles can have hope.

**c. Remember this when you when you fall into a deep hole...even a shameful hole.**  
Hope in the Lord!

### **Israel was not abandoned in the past**

2...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**"?

**1. There were times when Israel deserved to be cast off for sins like flagrant idolatry, as in Elijah's time.**

Many Israelites joined Ahab and Jezebel in their idolatry, idolatry Jezebel **brought from Tyre and Sidon.**

**They then persecuted the godly, those who wanted to serve God.**

**2. Elijah was totally dejected as he fled from the murderous Jezebel and pleaded with God against Israel.**

The verb "pleads" has the idea of the prosecution standing before the judge and accusing the nation of sin.

**3. Israel had done terrible things and deserved to be convicted and destroyed.**  
**Specifically:**

**a. They killed the prophets of God.**

1Kings 19: 10 So he said, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; for the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and **killed Your prophets with the sword.** I alone am left; and they seek to take my life."

**b. These men (and women) destroyed the places of worship God's people set up as they could not go up to Jerusalem anymore.**

These were not places for making sacrifices.

These were more likely altars for places of prayer.

There could only be one official altar for sacrifices. That was in Jerusalem.

**c. Now they were going to kill Elijah and cleanse the nation of all prophets,** at least so they thought.

Later, the Jews were responsible through Herod, for killing of Elijah (John the Baptist) and killing Jesus!

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."

**4. God responded directly to Elijah: "I will not destroy Israel; in fact, I have reserved and preserved 7000 more prophets who have not bowed down to Baal, and who will speak the truth I gave them."**

"Divine" is an interesting choice of word here.

**It refers to when God spoke from his mercy seat in the Holiest Place of the tabernacle and temple!**

The High Priest would go there once per year to make intercession for the people.

This is a picture of hope!

1 Kings 19:18 "Yet I have reserved seven thousand in Israel, **all whose knees have not bowed to Baal**, and every mouth that has not kissed him."

**5. So you see the point: There were some prophets who still believed in Jesus as God kept a remnant.**

The Jews would hear the Gospel of the coming Savior through the preaching of these prophets.

**God had no intention of destroying the whole nation or allowing it to be**

destroyed.

**6. Lessons:**

**a. *The church, the chosen ones of God, will never be destroyed.*** God never abandons his chosen ones.

**b. *We too live in a low time of true religion today and it is easy to become discouraged and think the church is so small.***

Yes, the church is small in North America (though it is growing elsewhere) but while the church is small, your God is great.

Don't worry about what is before your eyes. You are not alone.

God is with you...and many brothers too.

Continue to faithfully do the work God has called you to do.

Raise your families well.

Live your life in balance.

Don't obsess about wealth.

The church will grow!

**c. *During the Reformation (a term I don't like because it can be misleading), the Roman Catholic church was Reformed.***

***But there was always a true witness of those who did not fall to the deception of Rome.***

There was always a pure church that the **Reformed Roman Catholic** church re-joined!

There was always a remnant. God never abandoned his church in the past.

**d. *Don't pray with the ignorance of Elijah.*** Pray with knowledge.

Remember, Elijah did not have most of the Bible then, but you know more today, so more is expected of you.

e. Don't give up on people when they seem hopeless. God doesn't. Follow God's example.

### Israel will not be abandoned in the future

5 Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

1. After confirming he had not abandoned Israel, and after proving he did not destroy them in the past even when they were wicked, God confirmed he would continue to show mercy to Israel in the future.

This was evident throughout the New Testament. In fact, when the apostles traveled to different places, they almost always started preaching to Jews in their synagogues.

Acts 21:20 And when they heard it, they glorified the Lord. And they said to him, "**You see, brother, how many myriads of Jews there are who have believed, and they are all zealous for the law;**

2. That mercy God will show the Jews will not come because Israel kept the covenant or because they were natural descendants of Abraham, but God will show them mercy through Jesus Christ.

Christ took their full punishment and credited his death to them because they were the elect of God. V7.

1 Corinthians 4:7 For who makes you differ from another? **And what do you have that you did not receive?** Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?

3. This number of the remnants of Israel and the incoming Gentiles will be a sight to behold in the future.

Revelation 7:9 After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, **of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues**, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

### 4. Lessons:

a. God help the man who is an antisemite!

Pray for the salvation of all nations, including the Jews!

Don't hate Muslims and Hindus either.

Pray for and work for them to hear the Gospel and be saved.

**b. God help the man who thinks Israel is a nation that has special status apart from them trusting in the work of Jesus Christ for sinners.**

They rejected Jesus and he abandoned them!

They continue to oppose the cause of Christ, many making efforts to ban evangelism.

Don't support their wickedness.

**c. What wonderful hope you have for the future!** God won't abandon the Jews in the future nor will he abandon the Gentiles in the future.

### **Conclusion:**

**God has not abandoned Israel, though Israel often abandoned God.**

God did not abandon them **in the past**, when he had good grounds for doing so.

God will not abandon Israel **in the future** as he invites all Jews to receive his full and free salvation today that is available through the Savior.

Brothers in the Lord Jesus:

1. Some people support present day Israel for geopolitical reasons. They believe Israel helps to prevent chaos in the Middle East.

I don't know. Maybe they are right.

Muslim on Muslim slaughter might be unleashed without Jewish presence.

But Israel has no spiritual special status by virtue of their covenant or bloodline.

**But the Jews have God's promise. Their future is bright if they commit themselves to the Lord Jesus. Their future is bleak if they refuse Jesus, regardless of their geopolitical benefit.**

Remember, Jesus will not return to Jerusalem to set up a kingdom and rule from there.

So for a Christian, Zionism (the pursuit of the re-establishment of the primacy Jewish state as the special people of God) is sin.

**2. Send missionaries to Israel to share the Gospel so Jews can get the future blessing God has promised to all nations who look to Jesus.**

Engage Jews when you have opportunity. Study Isaiah 53, Psalm 2, Zechariah 3, Malachi 4, and Genesis 3 to do so.

Pray for their salvation.

Don't send money for Zionism.

Don't vote for politicians who support Zionism.

This only further deceives the Jews into a false sense of hope.

**3. Enjoy your privileges and protection as God's people. God is faithful!** God will keep you forever!

Finally: Jesus said: "I am THE way, THE truth, and THE life.

No one comes to the Father except through me."

This does not leave room for other options. Come through Christ or die.

Believe he lived and died for sinners.