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**BIBLE STUDY**

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**THE APOSTOLIC REMNANT**

**Romans 11:1-16**

***Romans 11:1 "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, [of] the tribe of Benjamin."***

Apostle Paul asks a question expecting a negative answer. He answers his own question with an emphatic direct denial. This negative questioning pedagogy is used to clearly demonstrate that God has not forgotten His unconditional promises to Israel. Paul wants them to know of assurance that any delayed blessings are not a denial. Because of the rejection of Christ, Israel is temporarily being set aside and God has turned His attention to the Gentiles for salvation and provocation of Israel.

***Romans 10:19 But I say, Did not Israel know? First Moses saith, I will provoke you to jealousy by them that are no people, and by a foolish nation I will anger you.***

Paul is very proud of his Israelite heritage and inheritance. Paul mentions this heritage several times in his writings.

***2 Corinthians 11:22 "Are they Hebrews? so [am] I. Are they Israelites? so [am] I. Are they the seed of Abraham? so [am] I."***

***Philippians 3:5 "Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, [of] the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;"***

Paul is also very proud that he was of the physical house of Israel as well as the spiritual house of Israel. God never completely gives up on the physical house of Israel even if they have walked away from Him.

***Jeremiah 33:24-26***

 ***24Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Lord hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them.***

***25Thus saith the Lord; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth;***

***26Then will I cast away the seed of Jacob and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them.***

God is long-suffering and is always ready to forgive them and receive them back.

***Romans 11:2 "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,"***

***Romans 11:3 "Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life."***

God will not forsake His own. Just as any parent will not forsake their children, God will not forsake His own. God is interested in just one prophet that belongs to Him.

***Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.***

***I Kings 19:10-14***

***10And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.***

***11And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:***

***12And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.***

***13And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?***

***14And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.***

***Romans 11:4 "But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to [the image of] Baal."***

***Romans 11:5 "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace."***

***Romans 11:6 "And if by grace, then [is it] no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if [it be] of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."***

We see something very distinctive here. This is established by two, an Old and a New Testament book. God will save a remnant.

***I Kings 19:18 "Yet I have left [me] seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him."***

The 144,000 who are sealed with the Father's seal in Revelation are the remnant. Remember once again that they have the seal of God the Father and the large number around the throne in heaven at the same time have on the white garment of righteousness and belong to the Son of God. They have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. We cannot work our way to heaven. Salvation is a free gift. Truly even the Holy Spirit must woo you, or the desire to come to Jesus would never be there. Or part in all of this is to reach out and take what God has offered to us.

***Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] the gift of God:"***

***Ephesians 2:9 "Not of works, lest any man should boast."***

Truly we have nothing to do with who we are as we read in this next Scripture.

***I Corinthians 15:10 "But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which [was bestowed] upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me."***

***Romans 11:7 "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded"***

***Romans 11:8 "(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.***

These Scriptures leave no doubt that God first must call us and the Holy Spirit has to reveal to us the meaning, or we, too, would be blinded. It is God that opens our ears of understanding to His Word. He is our source, we must depend on Him. The beginning of wisdom is to fear God. This fear is to reverence Him or to hold Him in awe. Unless God reveals Himself to us, we do not truly know Him. He loves everyone and wants us all to love Him, but if we choose not to follow Him, He will stop up our ears and eyes and we will not be able to understand. He does not want us to come to Him with our mind, He wants our heart.

***Matthew 13:14 "And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:"***

***Matthew 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and [their] ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with [their] eyes and hear with [their] ears, and should understand with [their] heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."***

***Ezekiel 12:2 "Son of man, thou dwellest in the midst of a rebellious house, which have eyes to see, and see not; they have ears to hear, and hear not: for they [are] a rebellious house."***

***Mark 4:11 "And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [these] things are done in parables:"***

***Mark 4:12 "That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and [their] sins should be forgiven them."***

This is because of their evil heart that Jesus does not reveal Himself to them.

***Romans 11:9 "And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them:"***

***Romans 11:10 "Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway."***

Recompence means to quit like men.

***I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"***

***I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"***

***I Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."***

We see from these 3 Scriptures that to whom much is given, much is required. This does not mean just wealth of money, but has to do with knowledge of the Bible, as well. To know God and His Word and then to sin is much worse than to sin in ignorance. In the 23rd Psalm, we see the opposite of this table.

***Psalms 23:5 "Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over."***

David's table was a blessing and theirs was a curse. They did not have their heart right with God.

***Romans 11:11 "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but [rather] through their fall salvation [is come] unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy."***

We see that the Gentiles readily accepted the Lord Jesus Christ when the Jews rejected Jesus. God still loves the Jew [the physical house of Israel] and, as we have been reading, He will save a remnant of them.

***Acts 13:42 "And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next Sabbath."***

***Romans 11:12 "Now if the fall of them [be] the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?"***

This is just God's way of allowing the Gentile believers to be saved. We Gentile believers have been grafted in to the family of God. We are His adopted children.

***Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."***

***Romans 11:13 "For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office:"***

***Romans 11:14 "If by any means I may provoke to emulation [them which are] my flesh, and might save some of them."***

Paul was actually commissioned of God to bring the salvation message to the Gentiles, but he could not quite ever give up on his brothers, the Jews.

***Acts 9:15 "But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:"***

You can see from this that his first call was to the Gentile. Paul in verse 14 above is saying that, perhaps, while he is bringing this message to the Gentiles, some of his Hebrew brothers will hear and understand, as well. I will give you one Scripture of many that shows that Paul was aware of his call to the Gentiles.

***II Timothy 1:11 "Whereunto I am appointed a preacher, and an apostle, and a teacher of the Gentiles."***

***Romans 11:15 "For if the casting away of them [be] the reconciling of the world, what [shall] the receiving [of them be], but life from the dead?***

There is no better example of this in all the Bible than in Ezekiel where the story of the dry bones is found. In this account we will see, that at the end God will bring back to life the natural Israelite, and they and the spiritual house of Israel {Christians} will all be part of the family of God. The 2 sticks that come together are the spiritual and the physical houses of Israel. Jesus Christ {their Messiah} saves us all.

***Ezekiel 37:1-14***

***1 The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,***

***2And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.***

***3And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.***

***4Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.***

***5Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:***

***6And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.***

***7So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.***

***8And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.***

***9Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.***

***10So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.***

***11Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.***

***12Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.***

***13And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,***

***14And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.***

In verse 11 above, the word whole is used meaning the physical and the spiritual house of Israel.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In verse one Paul asks, Has God cast away His people, has He?
2. What 3 things does Paul call himself in verse one?
3. God is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is always ready to forgive.
4. In verse 3 what 2 things had they done that made Elias think that he alone was left?
5. God will not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His own.
6. In chapter 11 verse 4, how many had God reserved who had not bowed their knee to Baal?
7. This remnant is according to what in verse 5?
8. Paul says by what {I am, what I am}?
9. In verse 7, we see that who obtained while all others were blinded?
10. Why does Jesus not reveal Himself to some people?
11. In verse 9 David said for those who reject the truth to have their table be what?
12. In verse 10, what will happen to their eyes?
13. In verse 11, we see that their fall came for what purpose?
14. Who is the physical house of Israel?
15. In verse 12 we see that the diminishing of them be riches to whom?
16. When we have been added to the family of God, what should we cry?
17. Who was Paul commissioned to bring the salvation message to?
18. In verse 15, what does the receiving of them bring?
19. In Ezekiel chapter 37, what does the story of the dry bones bring?
20. Who are the dry bones mentioned in Ezekiel ch.37 v.11?
21. What causes these dry bones to live in Ezekiel ch.37 v.14?
22. Why is the word whole used in verse 11 of Ezekiel 37?