

Romans 11:1~6, part 2 (1Kings 19)

Has God cast away His people? Has God forsaken Israel? That is the question that Paul seeks to answer here in this section. Having just declared, through Moses and the prophet Isaiah, that God had forewarned Israel of how He would leave them, how He would “*hide his face*” from them, and be found among a nation “*not called by His name.*” A reference to “*Gentiles.*” Which is exactly what happened as a result of the events of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Israel as a whole “*rejected Christ*” while the Gentiles “*gladly received Him.*” Thus upon Israel’s rejection of Christ, God leaves Israel “*desolate.*” Just as Moses and Isaiah had prophesied and warned Israel, God left the nation *called by His name*, and was now found among the Gentile people. Moses tells us, that this came about because of Israel’s harlotry against God. They had forsaken God for “*other gods,*” ...they had given their heart to THINGS. Which resulted in provoking the Jealousy of God. God became furious with “*His people,*” and vowed that since they left Him for “*other gods,*” He would leave them for “*other people.*” But even in His anger, God’s purpose was to “*draw*” Israel back to Himself. His goal was to provoke Israel back to loving Him. That, by seeing Him among the Gentile nations, they would become jealous, and return to Him out of love.

Following the events of the Cross...that’s exactly what happened. In Matthew 23, Jesus Himself pronounces the fulfillment of this prophecy upon Israel.

³⁷O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that kills the prophets, and stones them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! ³⁸Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. ³⁹For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

The presence of God would no longer be with Israel...God’s presence would depart from Israel; He would leave them to themselves... His presence and power would now be seen among the Gentiles! And would remain that way, until Christ comes back, or another way to put it, “*till the end of time...*” God will leave them “*alone,*” that’s what “*desolate*” means. They didn’t want Him, didn’t have time for them, they had given their hearts to other “*THINGS,*” to the point that God says ok! He will no longer listen to their prayers, in the sense of answering them. He will no longer be found of them. They are “*all alone*” in this world, without God! I don’t know if you grasp the full weight of that statement, but it’s a terrifying statement! (What about parents today who don’t have time?)

³⁸Behold, your house is left unto you desolate... Does that mean that God has “*forsaken*” Israel? Has God turned “*His back*” on His people?

God forbid! Absolutely not...*Paul says!* All it means is, that God has “*clearly defined*” who “*His People*” are! God’s people are those who place their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! The fact that the majority of Israel rejected Christ, only affirms the fact that they are not “*His true people!*” That’s not to say that the entire nation rejected Him, for there were several who did receive Him! But in comparison to the nation as a whole, there was but a small remnant who believed. Christ was the defining line... Paul says, God has not forsaken “*His people!*” I am an Israelite, I am of the seed of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin! God hasn’t “*Cast away*” His people...His departure from Israel as a whole only declares that they were not His people!

It’s like it was in the days of Elijah... Paul says.

Paul answers the question by pointing to the scripture...1Kings 19:10, 18.
In order to fully understand Paul’s reference, we need to go back to 1Kings 11.

(11:3~4) Like father...NOT!

(11:9~11) Solomon provokes the anger of God...

(12:1) Solomon's son...Rehoboam is made King...

(12:2~5) Jeroboam confronts Rehoboam concerning mistreatment of Israel...

(12:6~11) Rehoboam seeks council by "Old" and "Young"...

(12:12~15) Rehoboam takes the "Young" advice and promises to increase pressure...

(12:16~20) Ten tribes of Israel rebel against Rehoboam...and make Jeroboam King over Israel...

(12:20~24) Rehoboam begins to plan war against Jeroboam for Israel...but God stops it...

²⁴*Thus saith the LORD, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me.*

Israel is DIVIDED! And as we shall see in the following chapters, the majority (Israel) will not follow the ways of the Lord.

(12:28) Jeroboam builds 2 golden calves...

(13:1~32) God sends a "man of God" to prophesy against the alters and those who oversaw it...

(13:33~34) Jeroboam continues to sin in spite of the warning...

Kings of Israel

Jeroboam

Nadab

Baasha

Elah

Zimri (*a servant*)

Omri

Ahab

Kings of Judah

Rehoboam

Abijam

Asa (*reigned during all the years from Jeroboam~Ahab*)

(16:29~33) The reign of *Ahab*... Lowest of lows...

- Lowest point in Israel's history...
- He married Jezebel...
- Builds an alter for **Baal**...

"**Baal**" means "Lord, husband, owner."

Ahab led the people of Israel to worship Baal... Baal was a very predominant god in Canaanite religion. He was the "storm god," the "god of Rain..."

That's significant to know, because that explains why Elijah declares, "*thus saith the Lord...there would be no rain*" for several years in Israel...

(17:1) ¹And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, **there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.**

"**Baal**" means "Lord, husband, owner."

"**Elijah**" means "The Lord is God."

God was going to use "**Elijah**" to declare who the "**TRUE LORD**" was!

Baal was the "god of rain..." He was known as the god of "fertility" in that he was thought to give the seed the nourishing water need to produce fruit.

Quoting...The drought PROVED that Baal, the god of rain and fertility, was impotent before God!

James records this prayer of Elijah...(5:16~18) *The prayer of a righteous man avails much...*

(18:4,13) Jezebel had sought to kill all the prophets of Israel...replacing them with the prophets of Baal.

But Obadiah had secretly took 100 of them, and hid them by 50's in caves, and had brought them water and bread to keep them alive.

(18:17~35) Elijah confronts Ahab, and challenges the prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel...

(18:36~46) Elijah prays...and God sends RAIN...

(Chapter 19) Jezebel vows to kill Elijah...

- Elijah flees...
- Asked God to let him just die...

(19:9~18) *God ask Elijah a question...* What are you doing here?

- God reveals "His Power..."
- God speaks in a small still voice...
- Commissions Elijah back to work...
- Anoint two kings and a prophet... (Future)

Quote...Elijah had complained about the past and current generations...Now God calls him to equip the future generations by anointing two kings and a prophet. God was calling Elijah to stop weeping over the past and running away from the present. It was time for him to start preparing others for the future.

(Vs 18) *I have reserved for myself...* No matter how wicked the world may appear, God always has a remnant that is faithful to Him. Sometimes the remnant is small...but God is always great and will accomplish His purposes. (*Without delay, Elijah returns to his place of duty*)