



# A Remnant Shall Be Saved

**“I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid.... Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” (Romans 11:1,5).**

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“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. 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, 3 Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 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. 5 Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 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 it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work. 7 What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded. 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. 9 And David saith, Let their table be made a snare, and a trap, and a stumblingblock, and a recompence unto them: 10 Let their eyes be darkened, that they may not see, and bow down their back alway. 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. 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?” (Romans 11:1-12).

## Introduction

One of the greatest fears that people experience is the fear of being rejected, abandoned, or forgotten. Children fear being abandoned by their parents. Employees fear being discarded by employers. Citizens fear being neglected by governments. Even believers sometimes wonder whether God has forgotten them because of prolonged trials, unanswered prayers, or personal failures. Romans 11:1–12 addresses this concern directly. The Apostle Paul demonstrates that God's purposes never fail, His promises never expire, and His mercy remains available even when people seem to have wandered far from Him.

In Luke 12:32, Jesus encouraged His followers with these re-assuring words: "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom". This encourages us not to be anxious or fearful. Calling them "little flock" conveys His role as the Good Shepherd who lovingly cares for His sheep. The promise that "it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom" reveals that God's blessings, including His Kingdom, are not given reluctantly but delightfully. Believers can therefore live with confidence, knowing that the Father willingly shares His eternal Kingdom with those who trust in His Son. Our text reveals three important truths—that:

1. God preserves a remnant for Himself.
2. God's grace is greater than human failure.
3. God's apparent setbacks often become opportunities for greater blessing.

We will consider this study under the following five points:

- 1) GOD DOES NOT ABANDON HIS COVENANT PURPOSES
- 2) GOD ALWAYS PRESERVES A REMNANT
- 3) GOD'S WORK IS FOUNDED UPON GRACE
- 4) HARDNESS OF HEART IS A DANGEROUS CONDITION
- 5) GOD CAN BRING GOOD OUT OF HUMAN FAILURE



## 1. GOD DOES NOT ABANDON HIS COVENANT PURPOSES

**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." Paul begins with a question: Has God rejected Israel? His answer is emphatic: "God forbid." Paul himself was proof that God had not abandoned Israel. Once a persecutor of Christians, he had become an apostle of Jesus Christ. God's covenant faithfulness remains unchanged, as underscored in these scriptures:

- Malachi 3:6—"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."
- Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?"
- 2 Timothy 2:13—"If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself."
- Psalm 89:34 "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips."

Peter denied Jesus three times. Yet after the resurrection, Christ restored him and commissioned him for service, as recorded in John 21:17—"He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep." God did not cast Peter away.

During the Second World War, many European cities were devastated by bombing. Yet after the war, governments rebuilt roads, bridges, railways and communities. What appeared ruined was restored through deliberate commitment. Likewise, God's commitment to His people does not disappear when circumstances appear hopeless.

## 2. GOD ALWAYS PRESERVES A REMNANT

**Romans 11:2-4** "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, Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars; and I am left alone, and they seek my life. 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."


Elijah believed he was alone, but God revealed that he was not alone. There were seven thousand faithful worshippers whom Elijah did not know existed. When believers focus only on visible circumstances, they often underestimate what God is doing behind the scenes. Note these scriptures:

- 1 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."
- Isaiah 1:9 "Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."
- Revelation 3:4 "Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy." [Note: Sardis was a church that was described by the risen Christ as "... I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Revelations 3:1)].

There are times when Christians feel isolated:

- In secular workplaces
- In universities
- In hostile social environments
- In spiritually declining societies

Yet God always preserves a remnant based on grace and His foreknowledge.



After a severe forest fire, scientists often discover living seeds buried beneath the soil. Although the landscape appears destroyed, life remains hidden and eventually emerges. Likewise, God preserves faithful people even when spiritual decline appears widespread.

### 3. GOD'S WORK IS FOUNDED UPON GRACE

Romans 11:5–6 "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace. 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." The remnant existed because of God's grace and foreknowledge, not because of human merit. Salvation has always been by grace, as confirmed in these scriptures:

- Ephesians 2:8–9 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
- Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

The thief on the cross had no opportunity to perform good works, join a church, or establish a righteous record. Yet in Luke 23:43 "... Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." The thief was saved entirely by grace.

- Religion says, "Work harder", but Grace says, "Trust Christ."
- Religion focuses on achievement, but Grace focuses on God's provision.

### 4. HARDNESS OF HEART IS A DANGEROUS CONDITION

Romans 11:7–10 "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it, and the rest were blinded." Paul explains that many in Israel failed to recognise their Messiah because of spiritual blindness. Note these scriptures:

- Isaiah 6:9–10 "And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."
- Hebrews 3:15 "While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation."


Pharaoh repeatedly rejected God's warnings. Exodus 8:15 reported: "But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said". Repeated resistance eventually led to his destruction.

When a callus (i.e. thickened or hardened skin) forms on the skin, repeated pressure causes the skin to lose sensitivity. What was once responsive becomes hardened. The same thing can happen spiritually. Repeated rejection of God's Word can make the heart less responsive to His voice.

### 5. GOD CAN BRING GOOD OUT OF HUMAN FAILURE

Romans 11:11–12 "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. 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?" Israel's rejection of Christ was tragic. Yet God used that rejection to extend the Gospel throughout the nations. This demonstrates God's sovereignty. **Human failure cannot overthrow God's purposes**, as confirmed in these scriptures:

- Genesis 50:20 "But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to



bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive."

- Romans 8:28 "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."
- Acts 8:4 "Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word."

Persecution scattered believers, but the Gospel spread further as a result. Joseph was betrayed, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and imprisoned. Yet God used every setback to place him in a position where he could save nations from famine.

Many scientific discoveries were made through unexpected failures. Penicillin, for example, emerged from observations that initially appeared accidental. What seemed a mistake became a breakthrough that saved millions of lives. Likewise, God often turns apparent defeats into victories. So, do not give up. Keep on persevering on the right path!

### **Conclusion**

Romans 11:1–12 teaches several enduring truths:

1. God does not abandon His covenant purposes.
2. God always preserves a faithful remnant.
3. Salvation is entirely by grace.
4. Spiritual hardness is dangerous and must be resisted.
5. God can transform human failure into divine opportunity.

Therefore believers should never despair.

- When circumstances appear dark, God still has a remnant.
- When people fail, grace still abounds.
- When doors close, God can open greater doors.
- When the enemy appears to triumph, God is still working out His eternal purpose.

Lamentations 3:22–23 declares that "It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness."

As encouraging as it is to know that a remnant shall be saved, it is important to remember the admonition in 1 Corinthians 10:11–12 - "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." This scripture emphasise the importance of humility, vigilance, continual dependence upon God throughout the Christian life, and teaches several important principles:

- 1) Spiritual confidence should never become spiritual pride.
- 2) Every believer must remain watchful, humble, and dependent upon God's grace.
- 3) Past victories do not guarantee future faithfulness.
- 4) The safest Christian is the one who continually relies on the Lord rather than on personal strength.

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father, thank You that You do not cast away Your people. Thank You for preserving a remnant, extending grace to the undeserving, and accomplishing Your purposes even through human weakness. Keep our hearts tender before You, strengthen our faith, and help us to trust Your unfailing promises. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.