



The Book of Romans

How to be Right with God

(Romans 11:1-6)

Context

1. Israel's present rejection 9:1-5
2. God's eternal purpose 9:6-13
3. Why God shows mercy and hardens hearts 9:14-18
4. God justifies and punishes Israel 9:19-29
5. Israel's stumbling 9:30-33
6. The reason for Israel's present judgment 10:1-8
7. The Messiah will deliver Israel 10:9-13

The Justification of the Nation Israel:

Cycle 5: (11:1-6)

“The Question of Ethnic Rejection”

Outline:

1. Israel's alleged rejection (Paul's hypophora) v. 1a
2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5
3. Israel's required recognition (Paul's summary) v. 6

1. Israel's alleged rejection (Paul's hypophora) v. 1a

Paul's question:

- "I say then, has God rejected His people" –JPH

- "absolutely not" – JPH

(Rom. 3:4, 6, 31; 6:2, 15; 7:7, 13; 9:14; 11:1,
11 *10 X's)

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2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

Paul's three-fold argument: (cf. 2-3 witnesses)

- The personal witness v. 1b
- The historical witness vv. 2-4
- The present witness v. 5

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The personal witness v. 1b

- “For” (Paul launches his answer to this alleged rejection by presenting 3 witnesses)
- “I also am an Israelite,” (this rules out the possibility that Israel is rejected)
- “of the seed of Abraham” (this rules out the possibility that ethnic Israel is rejected)
- “of the tribe of Benjamin” (Benjamin and Judah made up the Southern Kingdom)

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

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- The historical witness vv. 2-4

(Lest anyone think only the Southern kingdom will be restored
Paul gives an example from the Northern kingdom)

- The present witness v. 5

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The historical witness vv. 2-4

- “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew”
 - “foreknow” is simple to know beforehand (cf. 2 Peter 3:17)
 - God foreknowing His people implies that their present situation is not jeopardizing God's plan.

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The historical witness vv. 2-4

- “or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying”
 - first of all “he pleads” is a present, active, participle.

On the present active participle

“It describes a continuous action. It will often be difficult to carry this nuance into your translation, but this must be the foremost consideration in your mind. Everything else pales in light of the aspect of the participle.”

- William D. Mounce

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The historical witness vv. 2-4

- “or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying”
 - first of all “he pleads” is a present, active, participle.
 - Paul is citing Scripture on a point his audience better understand if they are going to allege God casting away Israel.

Citation of 1 King 19:10-14

- Ahab becomes king of the Northern Kingdom
- Ahab was the most wicked king to date (cf. 1 Kings 16:29-30)
- Ahab's wickedness
 - Exceeded the wickedness of Jeroboam
 - Married Jezebel and worshipped Baal
 - Under his jurisdiction Jericho was rebuilt v. 34 (cf. Joshua 6:26)

Citation of 1 King 19:10-14

- Ahab becomes king of the Northern Kingdom
- Ahab was the most wicked king to date (cf. 1 Kings 16:29-30)
- Ahab's wickedness
- God brings a drought 1 Kings 17:1-7
- Elijah gets a report from Obadiah 1 Kings 18:13-14
- Elijah kills 850 prophets of Baal and Asherah 1 Kings 18:19, 40
- Jezebel pursues Elijah 1 Kings 19:1-3
- Then the quoted passage 1 Kings 19:10, 14

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The historical witness vv. 2-4

- The “Divine response”: v. 4 (cf. 1 Kings 19:18)
- So, despite the darkest time in Israel's history there were at least 7,000 of the remnant plus 1 counting Elijah.

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

Paul's three-fold argument: (cf. 2-3 witnesses)

- The personal witness v. 1b
- The historical witness vv. 2-4
- The present witness v. 5

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The present witness v.5

- “even so then, at this present time there is a remnant”
 - Acts 2:41
 - Acts 4:4
 - Acts 6:7
 - Acts 9:31
 - Acts 11:19-21.24

2. Israel's established position (Paul's argument) vv. 1b-5

The present witness v.5

- “according to the election of grace”
 - Does Israel deserve to be protected and restored?
 - Why is Israel protected and will be restored?

(because God chose Abraham and blessed him and that blessing passed to Isaac, which passed to Jacob which passed to his sons.)

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Sentence #1:

- “And if by grace, then it is no longer of works”
- “otherwise grace is no longer grace”

3. Israel's required recognition (Paul's summary) v. 6

Sentence #2:

- “But if it is of works, it is no longer grace”
- “otherwise work is no longer work”
(cf. Rom. 4:4)

Summary/Application

- The ethnic people of Israel are not rejected
- There is a remnant throughout Israel's history
- Believing the gospel makes an Israelite a part of the remnant (cf. Gal. 6:16)
- Have you believed the gospel?
- You are saved by God's amazing grace
- The blessings of the eternal life are yours!