

IS GOD FED UP?

Romans 11:1-10

Ps. 103:8-10 Key passage describing God's character:

"The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. ⁹He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; ¹⁰he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities."

In spite of affirmation of God's ongoing love & grace, Israel's rebellion causes many to doubt they'll be restored.

"Israel missed their chance & won't be given another"

75 yr ago: little reason to believe Israel *could* be reborn

Paul insists: God's promise to Israel hasn't changed: Israel ***WILL*** enjoy God's blessing *WHEN* they stop trying to do it themselves and start trusting Him!

9: Past: ...lost it because they thought they had it made!

10: Present: *still* lost; they'd rather do it themselves

They're God's people because of **God's choice & His grace.**

People still think we can "do it ourselves!"

PAUL'S BURNING QUESTION:

Based on Israel's *past* rejection of God's mercy 9

...Israel's *present* rejection of God's provision 10

We *might* assume God would reject Jews forever,

11:1a *"I ask, then, Did God reject his people?"*

Are they finished? Is God through with them?

God hasn't driven away his people! 11:1-6

1a Emphatic summary: *"By no means!" "NO WAY!"*

God has definitely *not* rejected them forever!

God saved ME (Paul)! 1b *"I am an Israelite myself*

a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin”

He’s an authentic Israelite with right credentials.

He identified with beliefs his people still follow

If God abandoned Israel, He’d surely reject him!

God changes his life => *still* has plan for Israel.

God has preserved a remnant 2-6

2a “God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.”

God hasn’t rejected people He knew in advance

He knew all about them before He ever called them.

Biblical “*foreknowledge*” –deeper than our idea of *knowledge*—doesn’t *just* know *about* them.

Amos: Israel’s *only* nation God has “known”. 3:2

Word for sexual relationship: “Adam *knew* his wife.”

With Israel **& us**: God’s *intimately involved* in our life

He won’t turn on **US** now! True of Israel too!

God will finish what He started!

Phil 1:6 promise TO US based on **God’s** faithfulness:

“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion!”

God finishes what He starts!

Nothing they/WE do can turn Him against His people!

In spite of appearances,

God preserved a remnant in Elijah’s day

2b-4 “Don’t you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel: ³“Lord, they have killed your prophets & torn down your altars; ***I am the only one left***, & they are trying to kill me”? ⁴What was God’s answer to

him? *"I have reserved for myself 7000 who haven't bowed the knee to Baal."*

Israel had turned away from God 3a

Based on what he could see, **Elijah felt he's alone.**

They killed God's prophets; destroyed His altars.

They *deserve* to pay consequences of rebellion Dt. 28

Elijah made **1 *mistake***: He thought ***no one*** remains faithful.

God reveals 7000 who don't worship Baal!

In spite of appearances,

God's still preserving a remnant in our day

5-6 *"So too, at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. ⁶If by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace."*

Israel has turned away from God.

Professes to be God's people—heart's far from Him.

Fall isn't total; **still, remnant wants to obey God.**

God's kept them on basis of His grace 5

God hasn't kept them based on works 6

God will fulfill His purpose by preserving a remnant!

But... God has hardened the majority 7-10

Israel hasn't succeeded in achieving their goal

7a *"What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it didn't obtain [Repeats idea of Rom. 9-10]*

9:30-32 *"Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; ³¹but Israel, who*

pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. ³²Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works...

Only those God has chosen achieve that goal

7b *"The elect did. The others were hardened."*

Chosen found righteousness *by faith*, by God's grace; majority sought to establish their own—by works—

Majority are hardened 7b-10 Fulfills prophecy: **8** *"As it's written: "God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that couldn't see & ears that couldn't hear, to this day."*

Both **Moses and Isaiah** predicted this condition:

Moses' prophecy has been fulfilled Deut. 29:4

"To this day the Lord hasn't given you a mind that understands or eyes that see or ears that hear."

Isaiah's prophecy has been fulfilled Is. 29:10

God has blinded them to the truth.

David's prayer about God's enemies has been answered 9-10 *"May their table become a*

snare & a trap, a stumbling block & a retribution for them.

¹⁰*May their eyes be darkened so they can't see, & their backs be bent forever."*

Rejecting God's representative, they reject God

Paul's generation, like ours, commits same offense.

Rejecting God's anointed, Christ, they oppose God.

They fall into same trap—**same prayer applies!**

WHAT DOES MESSAGE TEACH US?

Is it just interesting *history* re. Israel? Or *is he talking to us?*

1. God still isn't finished with Israel!

They may reject gospel but He hasn't driven them out

2. If religious people didn't want to listen to God then, *why are we surprised people don't want to listen today?*

3. Only hope that *anyone* will listen is that God still draws people to Himself=> "Pray for 2"

4. Only way *anyone EVER* comes to God is on basis of His grace—NOT our works!

Paul's question isn't different from debate over **SECURITY**.

How big a sin does it take to lose our salvation?

Can we lose it by murdering someone? telling a lie?

Can we lose it by committing adultery?

...stealing paper clips from work?

If we've done such things, will God "banish" us?

No! Like Israel, God knew all about us before He called us!

He calls us based on *HIS GRACE*—NOT OUR WORKS!

*It doesn't matter what we've done—past, present, or future—
we're saved on basis of Christ's finished work*

—on basis of God's grace—NOT our works!

What are WE trusting in?