

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!"

4. Well - As We Turn Back In Our Bibles:
 - To The Book Of Romans:
 - We Will See That The Apostle Paul:
 - Uses The Example Of Elijah & His Loneliness:
 - To Reassure God's People:
 - That With God & His Grace:
 - You Are Never Alone & You Never Need To Despair!
 - Because In Romans 11:
 - God Has Paul Continue To Refute:
 - Some Of The Excuses & Objections:
 - That People Might Have:
 - To The Message Of The Gospel!
 - In The Last Chapter:
 - He Dealt With The Question:
 - "Have They Not Heard?"
 - And His Answer Was:
 - **Everyone** Has Heard **Something**:
 - About The Greatness & The Goodness Of God!
 - He Also Dealt With The Question:
 - "Did Not Israel Know?"
 - And His Answer Was:
 - They **Did** Now:
 - About The Greatness & The Goodness Of God!
 - The Problem Was & Still Is:
 - Most Of Them Do Not Believe In:
 - The Goodness Of God:
 - Revealed Through The Gospel Of Jesus Christ!
5. Well - In The Same Vein - At The Beginning Of This New Chapter:
 - Paul Wants To Deal With **This** Question:
 - 11:1 - "I say then, Hath God cast away his people?"
 - That Is - The People Of Israel?
 - This Seems To Have Been:
 - A Real Concern!
 - Not Only In The Hearts Of:
 - Jewish Believers - But Even In:
 - The Hearts Of:
 - Gentile Believers:
 - In That Multi-Ethnic Roman Church!
- Because - Didn't God Himself:
 - Make Certain Promises To Israel?
 - Not Just Conditional Promises:
 - Like The Ones He Made Through:
 - His Covenant With Moses - When They Came Out Of Egypt!
 - But Also Certain Unconditional Promises :
 - Like The Ones He Made Through:
 - His Covenants With Their Fathers, Abraham & Isaac & Jacob?
- And Yet - It Seemed Like Paul Was Saying That:
 - Israel Has No More Place:
 - In God's Plan!
- And So - Those Jews:
 - Who **Did** Believe In Christ:
 - Felt Very Much Alone!
- And Those Gentiles:
 - Who Turned To Christ:
 - May Have Wondered:
 - Can This Happen To Us?
- Again - 11:1 - "I say then, Hath God cast away his people?"

6. Well - In The Rest Of This Verse Through Verse 6:
 - The Apostle Paul Wants To Reassure *ALL* Of Us:
 - That - 11:2 - "God Hath **Not** Cast Away His People!"
 - He Never Has & He Never Will!
 - And So Now:
 - You Can Truly Rest In:
 - The Grace Of The Lord!
- Let's Read Together:
 - 11:1-6 - "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. / 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. / 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!"

7. In These Verses:
 - The Lord Wants To Remind Us & Reassure Us:
 - That His Grace:
 - Has Always Been Active!
 - Even Among Those People:
 - Who Continued To Resist & Reject Him!
 - Even Among Those Who Were:
 - 10:21 - "A Disobedient And Gainsaying People!"
- And So Now - You Can Truly Rest In:
 - The Grace Of The Lord!
 - As We Go Through These Verses This Morning:
 - We Will Be Looking At 3 Marks:
 - Of God's Grace - In Which:
 - You Can Trust & Rest!
 - The Promise Of His Grace!
 - The Proof Of His Grace! And:
 - The Purpose Of His Grace!

* So - First - You Can Trust & Rest In:

1. *The Promise Of God's Grace!*

- Because - There Is A Promise!
 - Which Is What We Find In:
 - 11:2a - In Answer To The Question Of 11:1a:
 - "Hath God cast away his people?"
 - No! "God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew!"
- In This Answer - There Is An Echo:
 - Of A Promise That God Made To:
 - The People Of Israel:
 - Back In The Old Testament!
- In 1 Samuel 12:22:
 - God Uses The Prophet Samuel To Tell Them:
 - "For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people!"
 - And That's A Promise!
- In Psalm 94:14:
 - We Hear That Same Promise Repeated:
 - "For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake his inheritance!"
- And So - God's Promise Is:
 - He Will:
 - **Not Cast** Them Away As His People!
 - To "Cast Away" Is A Very Strong Reaction:
 - To Something That Repulses You!
 - **IE:** Some Of You Ladies May Have An Aversion To Snakes! I Know My Mother-In-

- Law Sure Does! But - Some Of You Guys Do Too - You Just Don't Want To Admit It!
 But - If Somebody Brought A Snake Up To You - If You Couldn't Run Away, You'd Do
 Whatever You Could To "Cast [It] Away!" Because You Hate Snakes!
- Well - There's Nothing That Repulses God More:
 - Than Sin - And Especially The Sin:
 - Of Unbelief - Which Caused Even The People Of Israel:
 - To Turn From Him & His Greatness & His Goodness!
 - If Anyone Had A Reason:
 - To "Cast Away His People" - It Was God!
 - But - He Did Not! Why? Because He:
 - **Has Chosen** Them As His People!
 - As Paul Tells Us In 11:2 - He "Foreknew" Them!"
 - Now - We've Seen This Word Before:
 - In The Book Of Romans - In 8:29:
 - Referring To Christians!
 - But - What Does This Mean?
 - When Foreknowledge Is Used Of God:
 - All Of His Attributes Must Be Considered:
 - In Order To Understand It!
 - It Not Only Means:
 - A **Prior** Knowledge:
 - **About** Them!
 - Since God Is Omniscient & Knows The End From The Beginning! (Isaiah 46:10)
 - It Also Means:
 - A **Particular** Knowledge:
 - **Of** Them!
 - Since God Is Omnipotent & Will Bring To Pass:
 - His Eternal Purpose & Plan For This World!
 - To "Foreknow" Israel - Means He Chose Israel:
 - For No Other Reason:
 - Than To Display His Love & Grace:
 - **To** Them & **Through** Them!
 - In Deuteronomy 7:7-8:
 - Moses Reminded Israel That:
 - "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: / But because the LORD loved you, and because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers!"
 - God Chose Israel To Be His People:
 - Not Because Of Anything He Saw In Them:
 - But - Simply Because:
 - He Wanted To Set His Love Upon Them!
 - And This Is Why:
 - You Can Rest In The Promise Of God's Grace!
 - God's Promise Is Not A "Virtual" Promise!
 - It Is An "Actual" Promise!
 - Because - What God Promises:
 - He Is "Able Also To Perform!"
 - And - What Was True For Israel:
 - Is Also True:
 - For You:
 - If You Are Trusting In Jesus As Your Savior!
 - As - 11:2a - "God Hath Not Cast Away His People Which He Foreknew!"
 - So Also - He Will Not "Cast Away" You!
 - And You Can Rest In:
 - The Promise Of God's Grace!

* But Then - Second - You Can Trust & Rest In:

- And Gave Him His Law!
- And - While He Hid In A Cave:
 - Feeling Isolated & Even Abandoned:
 - He Cried Out To The Lord!
 - And He Made 3:
- Charges To The Lord:
 - Against His Own People & Even The Leaders Of His People!
 - 11:3 - "Lord, they have killed thy prophets, and digged down thine altars – and they seek my life!"
 - All Of Which Were True!
 - But - He Also Expressed To The Lord:
 - The Feelings Of His Own Heart, In A:
- Complaint To The Lord!
 - 11:3 - "And I Am Left Alone!"
 - And There Was Nothing "Virtual" About His Loneliness!
 - It Was Very Actual & Very Real!
 - And - How Did The Lord Respond? See The:
- Concern Of The Lord:
 - In 11:4 - "I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal!"
- In This Response:
 - Not Only Does The Lord Shows His Great Concern:
 - For His Prophet!
 - To Comfort Him In His Loneliness!
 - But He Also Shows His Concern:
 - For His People, His Promises To Them:
 - And Even His Own Praise & Glory!
 - "I Have Reserved To Myself!"
 - And - In This Response:
 - We Find Even More:
 - Proof Of God's Grace!
 - Grace To Elijah:
 - In His Time Of Loneliness & Distress!
 - But Also:
 - Grace To His People:
 - In Spite Of Their Continual Disobedience & Unbelief!
- And So - Even When **You** Start To Wonder:
 - About God & His Greatness & His Goodness:
 - By Thinking:
 - Is God Able? Or:
 - Does God Care?
 - Remember That There Is Ample Proof & Testimony:
 - About God's Grace!
 - And This Proof Is Not "Virtual" Proof!
 - It Is "Actual" Proof!
 - Just Look To:
 - The Testimony Of God's Scripture - And:
 - The Testimony Of God's Saints!
 - So That Now - Not Only Can You Rest In:
 - The Promise Of God's Grace!
 - You Can Also Trust & Rest In:
 - The Proof Of God's Grace!

* But - Then - Third - You Can Also Rest In:

3. ***The Purpose Of God's Grace!***

- Because - God Has A Purpose!
 - And This Is What Paul Tells Us In:
 - 11:5 - "Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace!"

- The Examples That Paul Just Gave Us:
 - About His Own:
 - Individual History!
 - As Well As:
 - Israel's History!
 - Not Only Teach Us:
 - **That** God Will Keep:
 - His Promises To His People!
 - They Also Show Us:
 - **How** God Keeps:
 - His Promises To His People!
 - It Is By Providing & Keeping:
 - For Himself:
 - "A Remnant!"
 - "There Is A Remnant!"
 - This Is The Purpose Of God's Grace!
- **IE:** One Of Ancient Israel's Most Prized Natural Treasures Was The Judean Date Palm Tree! All Along The Jordan River Valley, There Was A Vast Forest Of These Trees - Standing 40 Feet Tall! And Their Large, Sweet Dates Were Harvested Year After Year! Well, After Israel's Revolt Against Rome In The First Century - Which Led To The Destruction Of Jerusalem & The Temple Itself - The Romans Also Directed Their Wrath Against The Economy Of Israel - Which Included The Almost Complete Destruction Of Those Palm Trees!
 - However, In One Of The Last Jewish Strongholds Against The Romans - The Great Fortress Of Masada - Some Forward-Thinking Jewish Rebel Preserved Some Seeds From Those Trees! And - Even Though Masada Fell - The Clay Jar Which Held Those Seeds Remained - For 2,000 Years!
 - In 1963 - That Jar Was Found! And In 2005, A Scientist Wanted To See What Would Happen If She Planted One Of Those Seeds! And Then - To Everyone's Great Surprise - It Started To Grow! The Judean Date Palm Was No Longer Extinct! Why? Because There Was Still Life & Food In That Seed!
 - That Tree - Which They Named Methuselah - Now Stands More Than 10 Feet High - And Has Been Joined With Other Trees Grown From Other Seeds From That Same Jar! And Together - They Have Produced The First Harvest Of Judean Palm Dates In Over 2,000 Years!
 - And - This Too - Is The Purpose Of God For His People! Even Though Everything Around You May Seem To Be Against You! Even Though You Feel Like You Are Dry & Dusty & About To Die! "There Is A Remnant!" God Preserves A Remnant! Just Like The Seeds In That Old Jar - So That In His Time - God's People Might Grow & Flourish Again! Why? Because There's Still Life In Those Seeds!
 - When You Turn To & Trust In Jesus Christ - Who Died For You & Your Sin - And Who Came Back To Life In Triumph Over Your Sin - His Spiritual Life Is Planted In The Seed Of Your Heart! This Is The Purpose Of God For His People! And:
- There Is A Great Strength In God's Purpose!
 - It Provides Great Comfort:
 - To His People!
 - Which Can You Can See In The Words:
 - Paul Uses In These Verses!
 - In 11:3 - When Elijah Brought His Complaint:
 - To The Lord - What Did He Say?
 - "I Am Left!"
 - But Then:
 - In 11:4 - How Did The Lord Respond?
 - "I Have Reserved" - Or:
 - "I Have Left!"
 - And Now:
 - In 11:5 - What Does Paul Say?
 - "There Is A Remnant!" - Or:
 - "There Is Left!"
 - This Is The Purpose Of God:
 - For His People!
 - He Will Always Keep For Himself:
 - A Remnant!
 - This Was True:

- In The Past - And This Is True:
 - In The Present!
- In The Case Of Israel:
 - This Remnant Is:
 - God's Promise Fulfilled - And:
 - God's Pledge To Remain Faithful!
- But - Who Is This Remnant?
 - It Is A Living Group Of People:
 - Left In This World To:
 - Worship Him! And To:
 - Witness For Him!
- This Remnant Is:
 - The True Israel Of God!
 - The Spiritual Israel:
 - Who Believe In Jesus Christ As Their Messiah & As Their Savior!
 - They Are The Ones:
 - To Whom God's Promises Were Made!
 - 9:6 - "For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel!"
- This Is & Has Always Been:
 - The Purpose Of God!
 - But We Also See In 11:5 - That:
- There Is A Great Source For God's Purpose!
 - God's Remnant Is:
 - "According To The Election Of Grace!"
 - God's Choice Is & Has Always Been:
 - Based On His Grace!
 - His Own Will & Pleasure:
 - To "Shew Mercy On Whom [He] Will Shew Mercy!"
- When God Chose:
 - Noah & His Family:
 - To Preserve Life In This World:
 - It Was All Because Of:
 - His Purpose & Grace!
 - Genesis 6:8 - "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD!"
- When God Chose:
 - Abraham & Sarah:
 - To Bless & To Be A Blessing:
 - It Was All Because Of:
 - His Own Purpose & Grace!
- When God Chose:
 - The People Of Israel:
 - To Give Unto Them Countless Privileges:
 - Including Sending His Son Into This World Through Them!
 - It Was All Because Of:
 - His Own Purpose & Grace! And:
- When God Chose:
 - To Preserve A Remnant:
 - **From** Israel - In Order To:
 - Fulfil His Promises **To** Israel:
 - Once Again - It Was All Because Of:
 - His Own Purpose & Grace!
- But Then - We Also See In 11:6 - That:
- There Is A Great Security In God's Purpose!
 - 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!"
 - This Verses Teaches Us:
 - That Since God's Grace Is The Foundation:
 - For His Choice:
 - Then God's Grace Is The Only Way:

- For Salvation!

- God's Grace:

- Puts Everyone:

- On A Level Playing Field! Because:

- Grace Excludes Works - And:

- Works Excludes Grace!

- This Means That:

- In Order For Grace:

- **To Be** Grace:

- There Can Be Nothing Added:

- **To** Grace!

- It Must Be Pure Grace!

- And God's Grace:

- Is Pure!

- The Purpose Of God's Choice:

- Has Been & Will Always Be:

- Based On Nothing But:

- His Own Amazing Grace!

- And His Purpose Is Not A "Virtual" Purpose!

- It Is An "Actual" Purpose!

- This Means:

- That Even Though:

- You May **Feel** "Left" - Or:

- You May Even **Be** "Left!"

- You Are Never Alone!

- When You Trust In Jesus Christ:

- His Own Life Is In The Seed Of Your Heart:

- Never To Die Again!

Conclusion:

1. So Now - You Can Truly Rest In:

- The Grace Of The Lord!

- Because If You Are Saved:

- "By Grace - Through Faith" - Then:

- "Is It No More Of Works!"

2. And Now - You Can Rest Completely In:

- The Promise Of His Grace!

- The Proof Of His Grace! And:

- The Purpose Of His Grace!

3. And In His Grace:

- Though There May Be Times:

- You Feel Lonely!

- The Truth Is:

- You Are Never Alone!

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