



There Is a Remnant in Every Generation: Jews Are Foreknown by God & Will Inherit the Promises; The Spiritual Line of Abraham; God Will Not Reject the Jew

- 8) This conversation was referenced by Paul when he emphasized the power of the “remnant” not only in Israel but also in the Church Age. Paul begins Romans 11 with a rhetorical question:

Romans 11:1 - I say then, God has not repudiated His people has He? Definitely not! For I also am an Israelite from the seed of Abraham, tribe of Benjamin.

- 1- The epistle to the Romans was written by Paul circa A.D. 58, some twelve years before Judea was taken out as a client nation by the Roman army in A.D. 70. Paul realizes that the end is near for Israel as a client nation yet understands that there will be a “remnant” preserved by the grace of God.
- 2- Paul knows that the unconditional promises to Israel must be fulfilled. Since the Lord has ascended into heaven and client nation responsibilities are about to be handed over to the Roman Empire, he anticipates a question suggesting that God will abandon Israel as a client nation.
- 3- Paul is able to discern these things because of the Lord’s comments regarding the destruction of Israel by a Gentile world power recorded in:

Luke 21:20 - “When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies [Rome’s under Titus in A.D. 69-70], then recognize that her desolation [fifth cycle] is at hand.

v. 21 - “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, and let those who are in the midst of the city depart, and let not those who are in the country enter the city;

v. 22 - because these are days of vengeance [the fifth cycle administered under the directive will of God], in order that all things which are written may be fulfilled.

v. 23 - “Woe to those who are with child and to those who nurse babes in those days; for there will be great distress upon the land, and wrath to this people,

v. 24 - and they will fall [almost 2-million killed in the siege] by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations [almost 100,000 Jews made up the Diaspora out from Jerusalem] and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles [idiom for anti-Semitism] until the times [dispensations when client-nation functions will be carried out by Gentile administrations] of the Gentiles [the period of the Church Age & Tribulation] be fulfilled [at the Second Advent of Jesus Christ].”

- 4- This was the Lord’s prophecy of the fifth cycle to Judea in A.D. 70. Nevertheless, the Diaspora was made up of two groups: one present and one future remnant.
- 5- The first were those Jews who formed the original core of Christianity in Acts 2. They were the first believers of the Church Age to receive the indwelling and filling ministries of the Holy Spirit.
- 6- They began immediately to evangelize fellow Jews who were in Jerusalem to observe the festival of Pentecost. The effects of this effort are noted in two passages:



Acts 4:41 - So then, those who had received his [Peter's] word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

v. 47 - And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved.

- 7- The core of Christianity is these Jews and those added to them as noted in Acts 2. They formed the initial Pivot for the Gentile Client Nation of the Roman Empire.
- 8- It can also be said that certain of their progeny as well as those of unbelievers who survived the destruction of Judea will form the final remnant at the Second Advent of Christ.
- 9- The latter group is one of the major reasons that anti-Semitism is to be condemned in the Church Age. Under the principle of the imminency of the Rapture, unbelieving Jews whom you know could at any moment move into the Tribulation.
- 10- Under this scenario unbelieving Jews you know could be among the 144,000 Jewish evangelists of the Tribulation. Unbelieving Jews you know could be among those evangelized by them. Unbelieving Jews you know could be among those who populate the millennial client nation of Israel. Unbelieving Jews you know could be the recipients of the unconditional promises to Israel.
- 11- Knowing that Judea will soon suffer the fifth cycle of discipline, Paul poses the rhetorical question, "God has not rejected His people, has He?" The word "rejected" is the aorist middle indicative of the verb:

ἀποθέω, apōtheō - "to repudiate"; "to disown"

This is accompanied by the negative **μή, mē**. When this particle is found in a question it always demands a negative answer.

aorist: Culminative; views the event in its entirety but regards it from the viewpoint existing results: God has definitely not repudiated His people.

middle: Direct; indicates that the subject participates in the outcome: Jews who believe in Jesus of Nazareth as Messiah are not repudiated by God.

indicative: Interrogative; there are facts which may be stated in answer to the question and they are presented by Paul in this chapter.

The general answer at the end of verse one is demanded by the idiom:

μή γίνομαι, mē ginomai - "Definitely not!"

- 12- Who are "God's people"? The answer comes in two categories. The Jews are the chosen race of God. They are those whose genetic heritage is tracked back to Abraham through one of the twelve sons of Jacob and his father Isaac.
- 13- Thus racial Israel is made up of those who have the genes of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. True Israel is made up of those Jews who not only have the genes of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob but also the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- 14- It is to this latter line that the unconditional covenants are promised. This line is clearly distinguished in Scripture and is not to be confused with the line of Arabia.



- 15- The Arabs claim erroneously that their genetic heritage goes back to Abraham as does the Jews'. This is true but the Arabic line is tracked back to Abraham not through Isaac and Jacob but through Ishmael and his twelve sons:

Genesis 25:12 - Now these are the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son, whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham;

v.13 - and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in order of their birth: Nebaioth \ne-bah' yoth\, the first-born of Ishmael, and Kedar \kē' der\ and Adbeel \ad' be-el\ and Mibsam \mib' sam\

v. 14 - and Mishma \mish' ma\ and Dumah \dū mah\ and Massa \mas' a\,

v. 15 - Hadad \hā' dad\ and Tema \tē' mah\, Jetur \jē' tur\, Naphish \nā' phish\ and Kedemah \ked' a-ma\.

- 16- This is neither the genetic nor the spiritual line of the promises. The God of Abraham is *YHWH Elohim*, also called *Adonai Echath* and these names refer to the Messiah of Israel identified as Jesus of Nazareth.

- 17- The "god" of Arabia is referred to today as Allah but can be traced back to al-ilah, the cultic moon god of ancient Mesopotamia. Arabs do have an earthly promise from Jehovah that involves a land grant but the Jews have both earthly and eternal promises in the unconditional covenants to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

- 18- Paul affirms his association with these promises due to his genetic line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Benjamin.

Romans 11:1 - I say then, God has not repudiated His people has He? Definitely not! For I also am an Israelite, from the seed of Abraham, tribe of Benjamin.

- 19- When Paul asserts that Israel is not rejected he makes reference to the spiritual line. Throughout history God preserves a "remnant" of Jews who are believers and Paul gives as his illustration those that preserved the Northern Kingdom as a client nation under Ahab and Jezebel.

Romans 11:2 - God has not repudiated His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says about Elijah when he pleaded to God against Israel?

- 1- In verse 1 Paul asked the rhetorical question if God had repudiated Israel. In verse 2 he rejects the idea with a declarative statement: "God has not repudiated His people whom He foreknew."
- 2- Paul's use of the word "foreknow" nails the certainty of the fact that God will not repudiate Israel and Jews are the children of the promises.
- 3- Foreknowledge resulted when divine omniscience separated the potentials of human history away from the reality of human history and programmed the results into the computer of divine decrees.
- 4- Omniscience perceived in eternity past those things that could have occurred in human history but did not occur. For example, when we speculate about what could have happened in history but didn't we are delving into the realm of alternative history or "iffy" history.



- 5- Divine omniscience is able to calculate what would have occurred if certain events turned out differently had human decisions been otherwise. It could further analyze the impact these decisions would have had on human history from the greatest to the most minute.
- 6- But what does occur in history was perceived by divine omniscience as reality and was programmed into the computer of divine decrees.
- 7- This imaginary computer contains a PROM chip on which all the decisions of every person in human history are recorded.
- 8- In addition, it also contains a ROM chip on which all the decisions made by God regarding human history are recorded.
- 9- It was God's desire that Abraham become the patriarchal and spiritual head of a new race called the Jew. He consummated the former in Ur of the Chaldees where Abraham believed in Messiah for eternal life and God imputed to Abraham His perfect righteousness.