

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

To an Ancient People

...
The Autobiography
of Rabbi Leopold Cohn



I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in *the passage about* Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

³“Lord, THEY HAVE KILLED YOUR PROPHETS, THEY HAVE TORN DOWN YOUR ALTARS, AND I ALONE AM LEFT, AND THEY ARE SEEKING MY LIFE.”

⁴ But what is the divine response to him? “I HAVE KEPT for Myself SEVEN THOUSAND MEN WHO HAVE NOT BOWED THE KNEE TO BAAL.”

⁵ In the same way then, there has also come to be at the present time a remnant according to the election of grace. ⁶ But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

⁷ What then? What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened; ⁸ just as it is written,

“GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR,
EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS TO HEAR NOT,
DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY.”

⁹ And David says,

“LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP,
AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM.

¹⁰ “LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT,
AND BEND THEIR BACKS FOREVER.”

(Romans 11:1-10)

Has God Rejected Israel? No!

- Paul, as a Jewish Christian, represents the present *remnant* of Israel and thus anticipates future salvation for Israel

A Remnant According to Grace

1. Past Example of a Remnant

- *Example of Elijah's day* (1 Kings 19)

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1. Past Example of a Remnant

- in the midst of His judgment, the Lord left for Himself a remnant of worshippers
- not “bowing the knee to Baal” was not the basis of salvation but the result of divine deliverance

A Remnant According to Grace

2. Present Formation of a Remnant

- the present existence of a remnant signifies that the hour of God’s judgment has come upon the nation
- the present existence of a remnant is due only to the “election of *God’s* grace”

A Remnant According to Grace

➤ Principle: *Let grace be grace!*

- God’s election/salvation is based on His grace *alone*, which rules out any basis in human works
- Grace requires that God be perfectly free to bestow His mercy on whomever He chooses