

- 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 God's gracious choice.
- 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? That which Israel is seeking for, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained it, and the rest were hardened;"

Analysis of the Passage

(1) Paul asserts that God has not rejected His people Israel, and as evidence of that assertion he points to himself and says, 'God has not rejected me.' How shall we understand this? is Paul speaking of the nation of Israel as a whole or of the whole nation of (individual) Israelites? is he speaking of a temporary rejection or a final rejection?

**HAS GOD REJECTED HIS PEOPLE?**

Meanings of God's People?	Temporary Rejection?	Permanent Rejection?
The nation of Israel as a whole?	YES	NO
The whole nation of Israelites?	NO	NO

(2) Paul distinguishes between the nation of Israel as a whole and godly individuals within the nation. Just as God graciously chose the nation to be the special recipient of His national favor, so He graciously chose the remnant of godly individuals to be the special recipients of His individual favor.

(3) Paul makes a comparison and says that just as there was a godly remnant of Israelites in the days of Elijah, so there is a godly remnant of Israelites at the present time. And just as the remnant in Elijah's day was according to God's gracious choice, so it is today. Those Israelites who are seeking to establish righteousness by their own efforts have not obtained it, but those who were graciously chosen by God have obtained it.

(4) Ephesians 1:3-14

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly (places) in Christ, even as He chose (ἐξελέξατο) us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and faultless before Him in love, having predetermined (προορίσας) us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Him, according to the good pleasure (εὐδοκίαν) of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace,