**Romans 11: 1-10**

The question being raised in today’s passage is “Can Gods promises fail?”

The Israelites were God’s chosen people God made a covenant with them. But, God’s chosen people were not accepting Jesus. Why? Had God rejected His people, Israel, in favor of other people in the world? St Paul says no, and he provides two examples to substantiate his argument:

*Romans 11:1:“For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.”*

Paul, who once persecuted the Church, is proof that God can save a destructive person and use him. Paul is proof that God had not rejected the Israelites. Paul’s conversion stands as one of the greatest proofs both of the power of the gospel to save sinners and of the truth of the resurrection of Jesus, who appeared to Paul on the Damascus Road. His conversion should encourage us to pray and work for the salvation of those who are the most strongly opposed to the gospel.

*Romans 11:2 :” Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?”*

Paul uses the example of prophet Elijah here. After Elijah's spectacular victory over the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, Jezebel's threats sent him fleeing for his life. Hiding in a cave on Mount Horeb, he complained to God against Israel. They had killed the prophets and demolished the altars. "I am the only one left," he complained, "and they are trying to kill me". God answered, "I have reserved for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal". Even though he thought that he was the only faithful one left, God had preserved a faithful remnant.

On a broader scale, we feel that the world is out of control and that the bad guys are winning. You see the horrors of terrorism, war, and natural disasters that wipe out thousands. Sometimes it can be depressing to the point that you wonder whether God is really in charge of world events. But this passage shows us that God has preserved a remnant and that His purpose will not fail.

Moving further along, the passage says:

*Romans 11:6- “But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.”*

The majority of Israel failed to obtain what it was seeking. What were they seeking? We see in Romans chapter nine that the thing most of Israel had sought was a righteousness based on the Law. They tried to earn righteousness rather than pursuing it through faith. The situation with Israel is not unique to them. We, too, try to earn God’s favor based on our “works”. We say a prayer. We get baptized. We trust in ourselves. We trust in our ability to follow the Law of God. We look at salvation as a list of dos and don’ts — if I pray hard enough, if I read my Bible enough, if I go to church on Sunday — then everything will be all right. Instead, we are saved by his grace. God wants you! If He does not have you, then the rest does not matter. The path to true righteousness is accepting God’s grace and having a genuine relationship with Jesus Christ.

Sometimes, we also feel rejected. We feel that God has left us. But the good news of the gospel is that God wants to draw people out of sin and into a relationship with him. We have His promise that he will always be with us. Its time for us to submit ourselves to the grace of God.