

The Remnant of God.

Ezra 9:1 – 9

When we speak of This remnant of God we are speaking of God's chosen vessels, the vessels God has made of honor. **Romans 9:20 - 21** "*Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? (21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?*" People in this world refuse to believe in God's chosen remnant, while they have no problem believing in God's right to choose his elect nation, they hate the thought that God has the right to choose His children as He does His elect angels. However, what people fail to see is if God did not elect a remnant of anything for himself, He would have none. In Romans the question was asked of the Apostle Paul's in letter to the church of Rome, 3:9 "*What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;*" The answer was that no human being is better than another no matter who you are, we are all filthy with sin. We were all born of the same earthly father in whom we inherited his sin of condemnation. Again, Paul wrote, "*...we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;*" If God had not chosen Israel as His chosen nation, then He would not have had a chosen nation, if God had not chosen a remnant of the world to be His people He would not have had a family. God said in **Ezra 9:7 - 9** "*Since the days of our fathers have we been in a great trespass unto this day; and for our iniquities have we, our kings, and our priests, been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, and to a spoil, and to confusion of face, as it is this day. (8) And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage. (9) For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.*" It was God's Sovereign will and choice to have a remnant of Israel to be God's chosen people, His chosen kingdom for His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

- A. The elect remnant of God is both Jews and Gentiles.
1. While all of Israel are part of God's elect Nation and blessed because of it, they are not all the chosen remnant of God's family.
  2. Paul wrote in **Romans 9:6 - 9** "*Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. **For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: (7) Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. (8) That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. (9) For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.***" – Just as God love Jacob and hated Esau, it was God's elected choice not Jacob and Esau's.
  3. Israel is not different than the Gentiles, both are sinful and both are condemned because of Adams Sin. **1 Corinthians 15:22** "*For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*" The word's "*in Adam all die*" include both Jews and Gentiles.
  4. As Paul wrote in **Romans 3:9** "*What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;*"
- B. Who are the "*the seed of Abraham*"?
1. Ezra said in, **Ezra 9:8** "*And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from **the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.***" This is part of Abrahams seed.
  2. **Genesis 17:4** "*As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.*" – No this is not a misprint, nor is it meaningless, as Abraham is the earthly father of Israel, He is the father of all who will believe. Even as Gentiles we are known as the seed of Abraham.
    - a. **John 10:16** "*And **other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and***

*one shepherd.*" - Yes, Gentiles were brought into the fold as the seed of Abraham, and we are all one seed.

- b. This seed is also called the "elect of God". **Ephesians 1:4 - 6** "*According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: (5) Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, (6) To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*" – People say this is the Israelites and doesn't include Gentiles, but it is actually to the seed of Abraham, which includes Gentiles.
  3. God has elected a "fold" before the foundation of the world, in John 10:16 God said this fold was not all Jews but also Gentiles added and "*we would become one fold*". This is the seed of Abraham which is also the remnant of God which is also the elect of God.
  4. It is true that as Gentiles we are not Jews, however, we are grafted into the tree of Abraham, as part of the tree. **Romans 11:17** "*And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;*" – the words "*and thou*" Paul is referring to the Gentiles as "*being a wild olive tree,*" which was grafted into the tree called Abraham, not only the father of Israel but the father of many nations.
  5. Both Jews and Gentiles are the elect and non-elect, both Jews and Gentiles were affected the same by Adams sin and both need to be saved. Both are part of God's remnant also called the seed of Abraham, and also called the elect of God. **1 John 3:1** "*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.*" The elect and non-elect, the honored vessels and dishonored vessels, those who have light and those that have no light.
- C. God's anger at the world, and God's grace to the world.

1. **Malachi 3:6** “*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*” This is God’s grace, that Israel has not been destroyed, as is the entire earth.
2. God’s purpose and grace to Abraham’s seed, God’s elected fold, must be fulfilled, therefore the condemnation of this world, both Jews and Gentiles must wait by God’s grace. God’s ordained purpose will be fulfilled.
3. Even though “if repented God that He made man” Gen. 6:6, God’s elect was saved in Noah. **Genesis 6:8** “*But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.*” – Noah’s family found grace because of Noah’s righteousness and God’s elected plan.
4. God not only hated Esau, but He hates the non-elect. **Psalms 5:4 - 5** “*For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. (5) The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.*” – But no matter how bad the world gets; God has His chosen remnant.
5. Even when Catholicism and the worldly government were martyring tens of millions of Christians God had an elected remnant that would survive.
6. Even in the Apostasy of today, God has an elected remnant that will survive with the truth. The true church must live till Jesus returns. **Matthew 16:18** “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*”
7. Even after Jesus Christ returns and takes every saved person off of this planet, God still has an elected remnant that will be saved through the two witnesses.
8. God’s elected Remnant will survive until God is finished.
9. Therefore, because of this ordained remnant and God’s elected plan is complete, God will continue to have grace on this world, but when he is done the world is done.

D. God’s hope for Israel, is God’s elected remnant which is spiritual Israel.

1. I believe we must separate the Nation of Israel from Abraham's Israel known as "The Seed". **Isaiah 41:8** "*But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, **the seed of Abraham my friend.***"
  - a. The whole nation of Israel is God's elected Nation, but not God's elected Remnant, that is God's elected people.
  - b. Abraham is known as "the father of many nations". **Genesis 17:4 - 5** "*As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. (5) Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.*"
  - c. **Romans 4:13-17** "*For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or **to his seed**, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect: Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; **who is the father of us all**, (As it is written, **I have made thee a father of many nations**,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*"
  - d. All of the Nation of Israel is not the "seed of Abraham", the seed of Abraham has to be God's elect whom the promises of God were made too. **Romans 9:4-8** "***Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, **who is over all****, God blessed for ever. Amen. Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. **For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which***

*are the children of the flesh, **these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.***

- e. **Romans 2:28 - 29** *“For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: (29) But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.”* - God’s elect remnant is not the Jewish people by nationality but “spiritual Israel” who are not all Jews outwardly.
2. Just as Israel failed God, now spiritual Israel is failing God. **2 Thessalonians 2:3** *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;”*
3. **1 Timothy 4:1-3** *“Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.”* Only a true believer can “depart from the faith”.
4. After all that God has done for His elected people, just as He did for His elected Nation, people have left the faith.
5. **2 Timothy 3:1-5** *“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”* – Again, these are God’s elected people departing from God.
6. **2 Timothy 4:3-4** *“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be*

turned unto fables.” – Once again this is the elect of God falling away from the Lord, unthankful for God’s graciousness.

7. Entire churches will be led astray. **Revelation 2:4 - 5** “*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. (5) Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*”
8. But once again, God has His elect remnant as He did in **Ezra 9:8** “*And now for a little space grace hath been shewed from the LORD our God, to leave us a remnant to escape, and to give us a nail in his holy place, that our God may lighten our eyes, and give us a little reviving in our bondage.*”
9. Let’s look at the wickedness of Judah, Isaiah 1:2 - 4, 7 - 10 “*Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the LORD hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. (3) The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. (4) Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward...(7) Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers. (8) And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. (9) Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah. (10) Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah.*”
10. No matter how bad people, even Christians or churches get, God always has a surviving remnant.

E. The Remnants hope is in God.

1. As Christians and as churches, we have the same hope as God's remnant and these Israelites did.
2. We are still preaching the gospel and truth of the word.
  - a. Look what God said at the end of the Old Testament, **Malachi 3:1** "*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*"
  - b. God told Israel, **Malachi 3:6** "*For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.*" This was God's given hope to Israel, it is also our hope as Christians.
  - c. God has warned us, **Jeremiah 23:1** "*Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.*"
  - d. God will not allow His Remnant to fall not even in Apostasy. **Jeremiah 23:2 - 24** "*Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. (3) And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. (4) And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.*" – Let us thank God that so far we are still part of this chosen remnant, our hope is in the Lord that we do not fall.
  - e. God always has a chosen remnant to continue. **Joel 2:32** "*And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call.*"
  - f. **1 Thessalonians 5:24** "*Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*" – Isn't the calling of God an elected Remnant?



- g. **Trapp said**, “And although they are but a remnant, which is but a small to the whole piece, a handful to a houseful, a fold to a field, little flock, yet being the called of Jesus Christ.”
  - h. **Romans 1:5 - 7** "*By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name: (6) Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ: (7) To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.*"
  - i. **Poole said**, “*not of the Jews only, but of the Gentiles also, whom the Lord shall call; called of God to be his peculiar people; called to the knowledge of Christ, to profess his name, to believe in Christ, and by him to wait for eternal life and glory*”.
3. Our entire hope in the Lord is that God has elected us and called us, and will perform in us His desire. **Philippians 1:5 - 6** “*For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; (6) Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:*”
  4. Our faith in God’s word is our hope. **Titus 1:2 - 3** "*In **hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised** before the world began; (3) *But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;**" – We can trust God, no one but God.
  5. **Romans 11:5** “*Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.*”
  6. **For anyone to deny the true elected Remnant of God, not only of Israel as an elected Nation, but also both Jews and Gentiles as God’s peculiar people is in denial of God’s word. 1 Peter 2:9 - 10** “*But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: (10)*

*Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”*