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"HATH GOD CAST AWAY HIS PEOPLE?"

Has God cast away His people? This is the question with which Paul begins the 11th chapter of Romans. In fact, it is the question to which he devotes three chapters of that marvelous book.

After the first eight chapters of Romans, which contain the greatest exposition of the whole subject of human salvation that has ever been written, Paul turns aside for three chapters to consider a problem that troubled him greatly.

In the study to which he devoted so much time during the years immediately following his conversion, Paul found numerous evidences that Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the great Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament. He saw in Him the culmination of all the work of God from the time of Abraham to his own day. As he began to preach this message and saw many individuals turning from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the power of God, his heart was thrilled with joy. One development, however, perplexed him greatly. As time went on he saw that while many Gentiles were coming to accept Christ, the number of Jews who turned to Jesus was becoming proportionately smaller. Thus what seemed to be the very climax of the whole history of Israel, and ought to have become the great central teaching of the nation, became the teaching of a group that was only partly composed of Jews, and increasingly composed of non-Jews. The problem perplexed Paul. He even wished that he himself might be accursed for the sake of his brethren, the Children of Israel (Romans 9:3). As he pondered the matter, God enabled him to understand its true meaning.