



"Fredo you're nothing to me now. You're not a brother, you're not a friend, I don't want to know you or what you do -- I don't want to see you at the hotels -- I don't want you near my house -- when you see our mother I want to know a day in advance, so I won't be there -- you understand?"



DID GOD'S PLAN FAIL?

CHAPTERS 9-11



## Ways to Respond to The Savior, Jesus Christ

ACCEPTANCE
(I need a Savior)
(I don't need one, as ultimately,
I am my own Savior)

I live a life of self-satisfaction

I live a life so good, God has to accept me

#### **Romans 11:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! For I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. <sup>2</sup>God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

#### **Romans 11:1-6**

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? <sup>3</sup>"Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." <sup>4</sup>But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

#### **Romans 11:1-6**

<sup>5</sup>So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace. <sup>6</sup>But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.

# The Big Question and Answer

#### Romans 11:1a

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## Reason #1 - Paul!

#### Romans 11:1b

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Yes, I always love serving people who never say thank you....



# Reason #2 – The Chosen People

#### **Romans 11:2**

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# God's Chosen People



# Reason #3 – Elijah

#### Romans 11:2b-4

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? <sup>3</sup>"Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life." <sup>4</sup>But what is God's reply to him? "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

#### 1 Kings 16:29-33

<sup>29</sup> In the thirty-eighth year of Asa king of Judah, Ahab son of Omri became king of Israel, and he reigned in Samaria over Israel twenty-two years. 30 Ahab son of Omri did more evil in the eyes of the LORD than any of those before him. <sup>31</sup> He not only considered it trivial to commit the sins of Jeroboam son of Nebat, but he also married Jezebel daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and began to serve Baal and worship him. 32 He set up an altar for Baal in the temple of Baal that he built in Samaria. <sup>33</sup> Ahab also made an Asherah pole and did more to arouse the anger of the LORD, the God of Israel, than did all the kings of Israel before him.

#### 1 Kings 18:17-21

<sup>17</sup> When [King Ahab] saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" <sup>18</sup> "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD's commands and have followed the Baals. <sup>19</sup> Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table." <sup>20</sup>So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. <sup>21</sup> Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing.



<sup>1</sup>Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, "May the gods deal with me, be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of them."

<sup>3</sup>Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, <sup>4</sup>while he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness. He came to a broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors."

<sup>5</sup>Then he lay down under the bush and fell asleep.



All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." <sup>6</sup>He looked around, and there by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. <sup>7</sup>The angel of the LORD came back a second time and touched him and said, "Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you." 8So he got up and ate and drank. Strengthened by that food, he traveled forty days and forty nights until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God. 9 There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the LORD came to him: "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>10</sup>He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>11</sup>The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup>After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

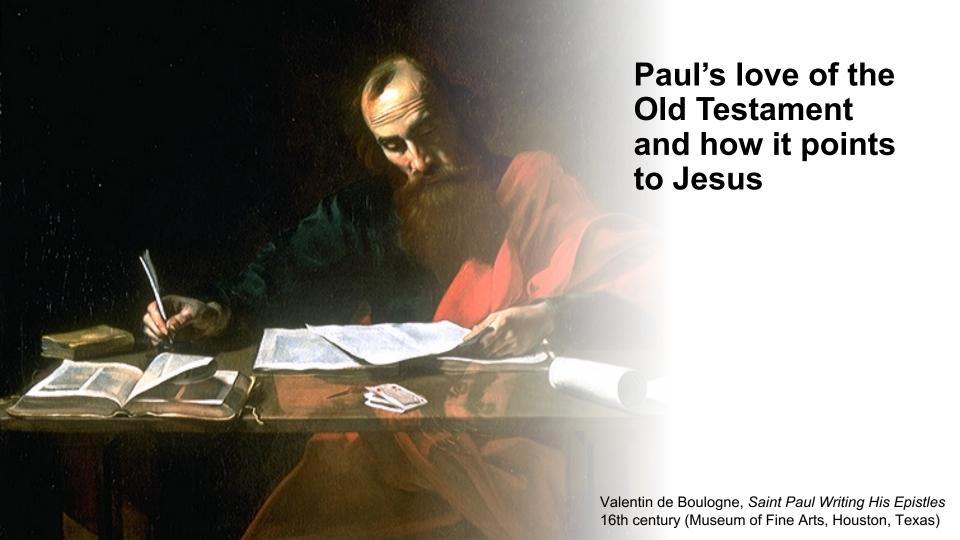
Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

<sup>14</sup>He replied, "I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too."

<sup>15</sup>The LORD said to him, "Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup>Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup>Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel – all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him."

Elijah considered himself the last faithful Israelite, and he said so again in 1 Kings 19:14. Elijah judged that Israel had forsaken the covenant and, possibly, ceased to be God's people. God first told Elijah to go back to work, and then added that Elijah was not alone. He said, "I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal" (Rom. 11:4; cf. 1 Kings 19:18). The revelation slapped Elijah out of his despair and self-pity. Yes, Elijah was a great prophet, but God's plans did not terminate with him. He preserved a remnant of his people then, and he preserves one now.

<sup>~</sup> Daniel M. Doriani, <u>Romans</u>, ed. Richard D. Phillips, Philip Graham Ryken, and Daniel M. Doriani, Reformed Expository Commentary (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2021), 382.



<sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" <sup>5</sup>"Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked.

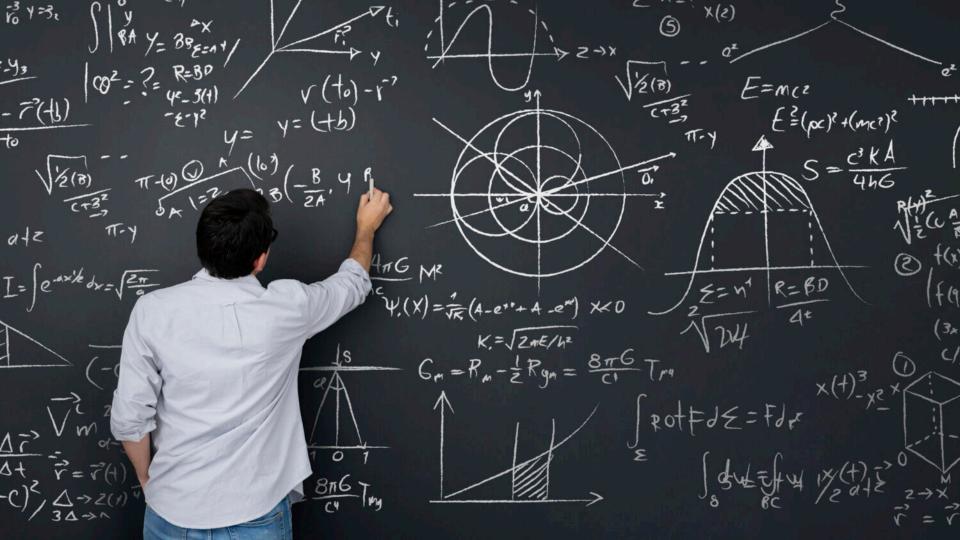
"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. <sup>6</sup> "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

<sup>7</sup>The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. 8 Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. <sup>9</sup> For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything...

<sup>15</sup>But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to proclaim my name to the Gentiles and their kings and to the people of Israel. <sup>16</sup> I will show him how much he must suffer for my name."

<sup>17</sup>Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." 18 Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again.

He got up and was baptized, <sup>19</sup>and after taking some food, he regained his strength. Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. <sup>20</sup> At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.



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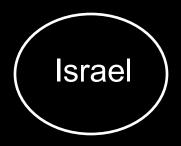
## Reason #4 – The Grace of God

#### Romans 11:5-6

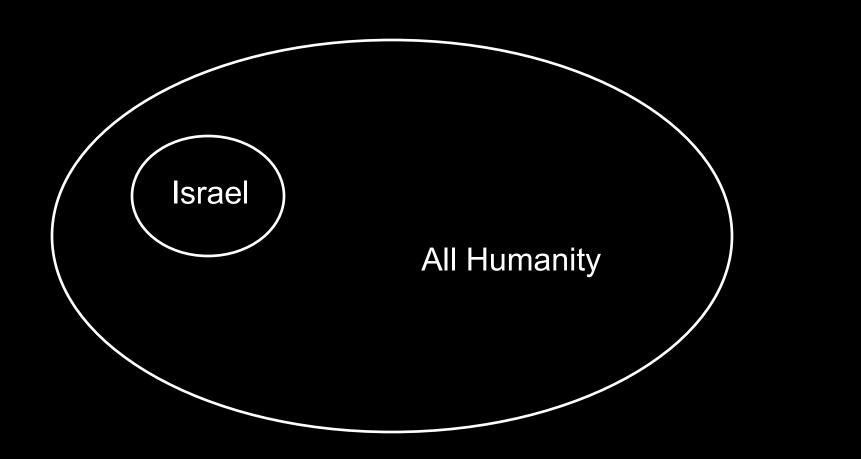
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## Israel and the Rest of the World (Nations)

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  - 3. If grace is the name of the game, pride is 100% out!