

Romans 11:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

Analysis

Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant—leimma (λεῖμμα) means a remainder or residue, used in the LXX for survivors of judgment. Paul draws a direct parallel: houtōs oun (οὕτως οὖν, "just so, therefore") connects Elijah's era to his own. The remnant exists kata eklogen charitos (κατ' ἐκλογὴν χάριτος), **according to the election of grace**. The preposition kata indicates the standard or basis—grace-based election, not works or merit.

The word eklogen (ἐκλογὴν, "election") appears throughout Romans 9-11 as the doctrine of divine choice. This remnant is not a human achievement but a divine gift. Paul identifies himself as part of this remnant (v. 1), along with thousands of other Jewish believers in Jerusalem (Acts 21:20). The remnant theology prevents both despair ("Israel has completely failed") and presumption ("ethnic descent guarantees salvation"). Grace alone elects; grace alone preserves.

Historical Context

The early church was overwhelmingly Jewish for its first decade. Even in Paul's era (50s-60s AD), tens of thousands of Jews believed in Jesus as Messiah. The remnant was substantial, though a minority within Judaism. This challenges later Christian assumptions that first-century Jews en masse rejected Christ.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the doctrine of election by grace alone provide both humility and assurance regarding salvation?
2. What is the difference between a remnant theology and a belief that the church has replaced Israel entirely?
3. How does recognizing that you are part of a 'remnant' affect your sense of responsibility and mission?

Interlinear Text

οὕτως	οὖν	καὶ	ἐν	τῷ	νῦν	καιρῷ	λεῖμμα	κατ'
Even so	then	also	at	G3588	this present	time	a remnant	according
G3779	G3767	G2532	G1722		G3568	G2540	G3005	G2596
ἐκλογὴν	χάριτος	γέγονεν·						
to the election	of grace	there is						
G1589	G5485	G1096						

Additional Cross-References

Romans 9:27 (Parallel theme): Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved:

Romans 9:11 (Parallel theme): (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

Romans 11:28 (Parallel theme): As concerning the gospel, they are enemies for your sakes: but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes.

