

Romans 9:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

Analysis

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—Paul quotes Isaiah 10:22. The verb *krazei* (κράζει, 'cries out') suggests urgent proclamation. The contrast: *hōs hē ammos tēs thalassēs* (ὡς ἡ ἄμμος τῆς θαλάσσης, 'as the sand of the sea') vs. *to hupoleimma* (τὸ ὑπόλειμμα, 'the remnant'). Abrahamic promise included numerical multiplication (Genesis 22:17), yet only a remnant experiences salvation.

The remnant doctrine pervades Scripture: only Noah's family (Genesis 7), only Caleb/Joshua from the exodus generation (Numbers 14:30), 7,000 who didn't bow to Baal (1 Kings 19:18, quoted in 11:4). The majority perishes; the minority is saved. This is election within Israel—'not all Israel which are of Israel' (v. 6). The same principle of sovereign grace operates in both testaments. The smallness of the remnant magnifies grace: salvation doesn't depend on majority vote but God's choice.

Historical Context

Isaiah prophesied judgment and remnant during 8th century BC Assyrian crisis. Only a fraction survived exile. Paul applies this to first-century Israel: most rejected Messiah; a remnant (Jewish Christians like Paul, Peter, the Twelve,

thousands in Jerusalem) believed. The pattern continues: true believers are always a remnant.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why is the remnant always small—what does this teach about the nature of saving grace?
2. How does the remnant doctrine humble ethnic/national pride and magnify election?
3. What comfort is there in belonging to the remnant (even if small) vs. the majority?

Interlinear Text

Ἡσαΐας	δὲ	κράζει	ὕπερ	τοῦ	Ἰσραὴλ	Ἐὰν	ἦ	ὁ
Esaias	also	crieth	concerning	G3588	Israel	Though	be	G3588
G2268	G1161	G2896	G5228		G2474	G1437	G5600	
ἀριθμὸς	τῶν	υἱῶν	Ἰσραὴλ	ὥς	ἡ	ἄμμος	τῆς	
the number	G3588	of the children	Israel	as	G3588	the sand	G3588	
G706		G5207	G2474	G5613		G285		
θαλάσσης	τὸ	κατάλειμμα	σωθήσεται·					
of the sea	G3588	a remnant	shall be saved					
G2281		G2640	G4982					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 1:9 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hosea 1:10 (References Israel): Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

Jeremiah 5:10 (Parallel theme): Go ye up upon her walls, and destroy; but make not a full end: take away her battlements; for they are not the LORD'S.

Genesis 22:17 (Parallel theme): That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

Ezekiel 6:8 (Parallel theme): Yet will I leave a remnant, that ye may have some that shall escape the sword among the nations, when ye shall be scattered through the countries.