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Judah Alone - The Remnant

30 October 2020 (with updates 30 April 2021)

The Remnant

Introduction: Remnant is defined by “The Anchor Bible Dictionary” as “What is left of a community after a catastrophe.” In todays society we see people who have embraced the “I’m OK, your Ok” philosophy of the 60’s made famous by a book of the same name. This philosophy has consumed American Culture for decades and up through society to the present. This belief has encouraged and infected society with a moral intolerance. (Dave Miller Ph.D., How Many Will be Saved? 2005) To society (the world) the only sin that really matters is intolerance. Intolerance of what others freely choose to believe or how others freely choose to behave (even if it is against God’s will). Even some of those who are Christians have been influenced by this ideology and are no longer studying the Bible and getting to know God or strengthening their relationship with God. They have chosen to turn their back on God and follow the world because it seems like the right thing to do, “I’m OK, you’re OK,” right? Wrong!

 So what does the Bible say or teach about who will ultimately be going to heaven because they have pleased God and are acceptable to Him (Miller, 2005). If we look at Bible History we can follow a trail of human existence from the beginning to present (not of all kingdoms and nations throughout history, or the secular world history) which gives us a sample of the condition and habits of mankind. Man has established a pattern throughout the Bible in which the majority of mankind has rejected God and His will for their lives over time and therefore God has rejected the majority of man. It does not mean that he stops loving man:

9The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not **willing** that any should perish but that all should come to repentance (NKJV).

 2 Peter 3:9

God is **longsuffering** and wishes none to perish as Peter described in 2 Peter 3:9. As we continue, we will see and have seen throughout history, man continues to reject God and the majority of mankind will be lost and even the majority of those who claim to be “Christians.”

“A great part of history is an account of men’s crimes and wickedness” (Noah Webster, The Blue Black Speller, 1857, p. 42). Is anyone truly faithful to God?

**Thesis:** Heaven will be made up of those who remained and will remain faithful to God and His

 righteousness no matter what the circumstances were during their life-time or our

 current life-time for they are the Remnant.

1. **Summary of Human Biblical History**

 **A. From the beginning in the Old Testament,** Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:23-24) and then one of their son’s, Cain, **refused to worship as God had instructed.** Cain committed the first murder by killing Abel (Genesis 4:8). Approximately 1700 years later, the sin on earth was so bad that God pronounced judgement on mankind by flooding the earth and destroying every human being, save eight. How many people were on the earth at that time? Some estimate between 750-900 million to as high as 12 billion. The eight that were saved was not even **one-tenth of one percent** (The Flood, Alfred Rehwinkel, 1951, pp. 28:31).

 After the flood the population again multiplied and then the Tower of Babel situation happened and because again, the people **would not follow God’s command** (Genesis 9-1). By 2100 B.C. the focus was on Abram who eventually was known as Abraham as the genetic blood-line to Christ and the nation of Israel. The spiritual and moral condition of the people during this time is spoken of very little as was the Antediluvian people’s state of spirituality prior to the flood. We do know that the cities of the plains were wicked and Sodom and Gomorrah were blasted off the face of the earth.

 During the Mosaic period the Bible reports the world events in relationship to the descendants of Abraham in the coming existence of the nation of Israel and the Israelites. During the time leading up to the point when the Israelites were getting ready to enter the promise land the morality of the world was exposed in snap-shots such as “the iniquity of the Amorites” was not complete (Genesis 15:16). There were other snap-shots as well such as the king of Gerar (Genesis 20:2ff), Esau (Genesis 28:9), the rape of Dinah (Genesis 34:2). Pagan practices dominated the times such as magicians (Genesis 41:8) from Egypt during Joseph’s time, and other practices from other peoples in the Near East such as sexual perversion and child sacrifice which were documented by extra biblical sources and archaeological investigations (Miller, 2005).

 By 1500 B.C. there were 2 to 3 million Israelites (Numbers 1:46) that came out of Egypt headed to the promise land but **only 2** were allowed to proceed into the Promise Land, Joshua and Caleb (Numbers 14:30). Even Moses, Aaron, and Miriam did not enter into the Promised Land.

 During Joshua’s leadership the Israelites stayed pretty faithful (Joshua 24:31; Judges 2:7). During the period of the Judges, the “Dark Ages” of Jewish history began. During this 350 year period **most people were not faithful** (Judges 17:6; 21:25). At the close of the period of the Judges and in Samuel’s day, **most of the Israelites were disobeying God** by wanting an earthly king instead of being satisfied with God being their king (1 Samuel 8). Most of, if not all of **Saul’s reign was terrible** (1 Samuel 10-31), David’s (2 Samuel 1-10) was better **until he committed adultery** (2 Samuel 11) and then **the rest of his reign was a nightmare** (2 Samuel 12-24), and under Solomon things social conditions improved (1 Kings 1-10) until in his old age **he became unfaithful** (1 Kings 11).

 In 1 Kings 12 after Solomon’s son Rehoboam, took over ruling the nation, Jeroboam split the nation and took 10 of the 12 tribes and **lead them into apostasy** (1 Kings 12). He built another worship site and led them into idolatry. The rest of the history of this northern kingdom, also known as Samaria or Israel, is found in the rest of 1st and 2nd Kings through a string of 19 kings who were **all said to have been wicked** (“he did evil in the sight of the Lord”). It seems as though the leadership went, so did the people. Even though God sent them prophets like Elijah, Amos, and Hosea to turn them from their wicked ways, **they were too stubborn to listen to the warnings** and repent and return to God. Morally and spiritually broken because of their stubbornness and hardness of heart, **God finally had enough of it** and allowed them to be taken captive by Assyria (2 Kings 17). **So much for a majority of the Israelite nation.**

 Another example in the northern kingdom during this period is when Elijah challenged the false prophets of Baal and Asherah on Mount Carmel. Elijah called upon the nation to come and stand up for God and His truth but t**hey would not commit until** only after they had seen a display of God’s supernatural power is when they decided to execute the false prophets of Baal and Asherah. It was this attitude and horrible leadership that led to the northern kingdom **only lasting approximately 200 years** (1 Kings 18).

 Judah and Benjamin, the southern kingdom, known only as Judah lasted approximately 400 years and also had 19 kings of which 4 were somewhat good and 2 were pretty good, but still, as the majority of the prophets were sent to the southern kingdom, **they to were unfaithful to God** as **the majority of the kingdom** refused to turn from their moral and spiritual brokenness. God eventually allowed the southern kingdom to go into Babylonian captivity.

 So the conclusion of all this is that **the majority of people** whom God was working out his plan to bring Jesus to the planet were no longer loyal to God, were against keeping His ways. The prophets term for this was “remnant.”

 If we were going to put a number on the individuals who were faithful to God out of the nation of Israel under Judaism, **what would that number be?** If we were going to put a number on those gentiles (who were living in a pagan wickedness) who were faithful to the Patriarchal Law during Old Testament times, **what would that number be?**

 **In the New Testament,** when John paved the way for Jesus to try to reform the Jews in Jerusalem and the surrounding region and get them to accept that He was the Messiah where were most of the Jews located? **The majority of the Jews** were scattered throughout the world due to their captivity in years past such as those who were in Babylonian captivity (Nehemiah & Ezra). The Jews rejected Jesus and the New Covenant in His blood in mass and crucified Him (Matthew 23-24). This mass rejection was confirmed by Luke in Acts and Paul in Romans and Paul also expressed his sorrow over this in 1 Thessalonians 2:14-16.

 With the beginning of the church on the Day of Pentecost, 3000 (Acts 2), and a few thousand later (Acts 3-5). Scripture also tells us tells us that the Jews were in attendance in Jerusalem during the two feasts, Passover and Pentecost would have numbered into the millions, some suggest anywhere from 2-5 million. When Christianity began during this time the Bible tells us in Acts 2:5, “…Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven,” a large number, but again, **not even one-tenth of one-percent** responded to Peter’s sermon on the day of Pentecost. **Christ predicted the rejection of the Jews** of Jesus as the Messiah in Matthew 24 and this came to fruition in A.D. 70 when Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans and over one million Jews died, the very people who should have received and accepted Jesus in droves rejected Him (Acts 13:46). **Only a small number compared to the whole accepted it.**

 So when the Gospel was rejected by the Jews after its presentation to them in Acts 2-7 then the Samaritans in Acts 8, and the initial gentiles in Acts 10, we read of Pauls missionary journeys and the spreading of the gospel to the rest of the world. Yet **the majority of the Romans** rejected it and if we were to fast-forward to today **what would that number be?**

**II. Summary**

 A. Throughout Biblical History the majority of Jews have rejected the commands of God

 and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **The majority of Jews are still rejecting Him**

 **today.**

 B. Throughout Biblical History the majority of the Gentiles have rejected the commands

 of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **The majority of Gentiles are still rejecting**

 **Him today.**

 C. There are approximately 8 Billion people on the earth today. What is one-tenth of one

 percent of 8 billion. What is one tenth of one percent of 26 billion?

**III. Conclusion**

 A. Who is to blame for the mass majority of humans who ever live being lost eternally?

 Not God! God has done everything He possibly can and could to save mankind and

 reconcile man to Him (Romans 5:8-10; 2 Peter 3:9; Hebrews 2:14-15).

 B. God persuades no-one by force or threat, He gave and gives us free-will.

 C. The majority (Matthew 7:13-14) of mankind chooses NOT (Matthew 26:16) to follow

 God as he has throughout history.

 D. So what might the definition of “remnant” be? One-Tenth of One Percent? Or one

 who chooses to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ and continue to obey the

 commands of God for the rest of their life and receive eternal salvation as their

 reward in heaven with God our heavenly Father.

The answer to our question in the introduction, “Is anyone truly faithful to God?” I hope it is obvious now what the answer is and that is this, Yes, why? Because those souls who are anchored in repentance, and keep the commands of God, do to the condition of their heart which is one of genuine servitude on a daily basis, is why they endure the storm, **the Remnant.** Are you part of the Remnant? Are you genuinely anchored in repentance? Are you genuinely anchored in keeping the commands of God? Is your heart anchored in the love of God? I pray that it is, if it is not you can choose to do something about it today! You can come forward and study with someone so you will know what to do to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If you are already in the body of Christ but you are struggling with a burden or burdens in your life you need to let go and hand them over to Jesus. We can pray for you and with you that he takes away the heavy load and burden you bear. If we can help you in anyway, please come forward as we stand and as we sing.