

# For Such a Time as This

## A Daily Devotional

### Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021



From Romans 11:

**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. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel?**

How deep is the mercy of God? How many times will God forgive us for our desertions and rebellions from his ways – seven times? Seventy times seven? How many times – just how great is God’s loving forbearance?

Paul was convinced that God had NOT rejected his own people though they had rejected him. In this affirmation we should find hope for ourselves as well. If the people of Israel, the very people of God, can desert the ways of God and yet not be rejected, how about us as well? Is there not hope even for folks like us?

Karl Barth wrote:

**Has God been betrayed by the Church, by every Church? Has He been betrayed by men who, in serving Him, refuse to serve Him, and who, with all their skill and might, deny that He is God? Can there be hope for those who with their own hands have murdered hope and buried it? Is there hope for Judas Iscariot? However uncomfortable this question is, we are bound to formulate it. We dare not pass it by, however difficult it may be. If hope be hope, it must continue to burn after it has put out every false hope.**

Is our desertion from God and the way of Christ essentially different from the betrayal of Judas Iscariot? Is our betrayal of Christ any different than Peter’s denial three times before the morning broke? Are those desertions and denials really any different from our own? Peter is redeemed and Judas ... well, Judas presumed his own guilt and ended his life before earthly redemption could be wrought. Calvin rather famously commented that if Judas had not been so presumptuous of the wrath of God, God’s great mercy would have led him home. Barth seems pretty convinced of it and as he said: **If hope be hope, it must continue to burn after it has put out every false hope.** May the same be true for us.

**Prayer for the Day: (From *The Valley of Vision*)**

**Lord God, thou hast made me what I am, and given me what I have; in thee I live and move and have my being. Amen.**

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