

Title: It's All Gone Pete Tong - Romans 11 1-10

Read:

¹⁻²Does this mean, then, that God is so fed up with Israel that he'll have nothing more to do with them? Hardly. Remember that I, the one writing these things, am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham out of the tribe of Benjamin. You can't get much more Semitic than that! So we're not talking about repudiation. God has been too long involved with Israel, has too much invested, to simply wash his hands of them. ²⁻⁶Do you remember that time Elijah was agonizing over this same Israel and cried out in prayer? God, they murdered your prophets, They trashed your altars; I'm the only one left and now they're after me! And do you remember God's answer? I still have seven thousand who haven't quit, Seven thousand who are loyal to the finish. It's the same today. There's a fiercely loyal minority still—not many, perhaps, but probably more than you think. They're holding on, not because of what they think they're going to get out of it, but because they're convinced of God's grace and purpose in choosing them. If they were only thinking of their own immediate self-interest, they would have left long ago. ⁷⁻¹⁰And then what happened? Well, when Israel tried to be right with God on her own, pursuing her own self-interest, she didn't succeed. The chosen ones of God were those who let God pursue his interest in them, and as a result received his stamp of legitimacy. The "self-interest Israel" became thick-skinned toward God. Moses and Isaiah both commented on this: Fed up with their quarrelsome, self-centred ways, God blurred their eyes and dulled their ears, Shut them in on themselves in a hall of mirrors, and they're there to this day. David was upset about the same thing: I hope they get sick eating self-serving meals, break a leg walking their self-serving ways. I hope they go blind staring in their mirrors, get ulcers from playing at god.

Think:

We get up in the morning and listen to the radio and hear the news about yet another war in some country across the world. Killing and maiming hardly the way God would want us to behave. We go to college or school, and everyone seems to be out for what they can get. They spend their time ridiculing the less fortunate guys in the classes, that you attend. Picking on others is hardly the way God would want us to behave. Heading home after a long day we watch the telly and spend the evening being told by the adverts that we must own this new gadget or we a not worth knowing, whilst the next news program tells us about the latest famine in Africa. Chasing possession and ignoring hunger is hardly the way God would want us to behave. Do you not wonder sometimes why God doesn't look down at this Earth, and say "well they have had their chance, I'm going to trash the lot and start again." Well God doesn't do that because he promised he would never do it again. After the flood where Noah built his ark God said he wouldn't do it again. That sentiment from God is coming out in this passage where he is saying look I know that Israel has lost the plot, but there are some people in Israel who are still going for it. When you have days where you seem to be the only Christian who is trying to do right and not being recognised for it, know that there is one person who sees what you do. On days like that God looks down and says "Man there is so much wrong in the world, but look at that guy there, living the life of a true Christian."

Pray:

Father thank you for accepting my efforts on this Earth as worship to you. Please Lord encourage me in the times when I feel alone. Amen.

Action:

Well if you need encouraging then maybe your Christian friends do as well. Think of a Christian friend who has done something recently that you were impressed by. OK now ring or email them and tell them how cool you think they are. Bye..