

Isaiah 5

in the next chapter: "I say then, Hath God cast away His people? God forbid." For has not cast away His people but God has temporarily cut off certain branches from off the olive tree of God's blessing, He says, and He says eventually these branches are to be grafted in again. That is the picture that Paul is giving us in Romans, and Paul is giving this picture to some extent right on these two verses in Isaiah and Paul very definitely interprets in Verse 20 the first verse of Isaiah 65 as referring to the calling of the Gentiles, and the second verse of it as His attitude toward Jews, so in view of that surely no one would think of saying that the turning to the Gentiles is not contained in the Old Testament. It is very clearly contained there as Paul very definitely brings out and in various passages in the New Testament and we must, then, say that 65:1, the answer which God gives is similar to the answer He gives to the nobles in Isaiah 28ff. "You are seeking me." They say to Him, "OH God, We are thy people." 63:19. "You never bore rule over them. They were not called by your name." God says, "I am sought of them that ask not for me. I am found of them that sought me not. I said, 'Behold me, behold me,' to a nation that was not called by my name. I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people." He said, "I have been calling Israel. They are a rebellious people," but He says, "I am sought of those that haven't asked for me." He says that in His sovereign grace He is turning to the Gentiles, and so Israel says, "They were never your people. They weren't called by your name. We are the ones who are your people. You are our God. You are not their God." God says, "I am sought of those who were not called by my name but I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people that was called after my name." And so the first part of this then is not merely rebuke to Israel but declaration to Israel that God is going to turn His favor to another nation but Paul says, you remember, after he quoted this, "Has God cast away His people? God forbid." He says, "No, indeed, He hasn't cast away His people but He has temporarily turned His favor away from His people to another people, but eventually