

there is a latent feeling in men's minds that since the national rejection of Christ, God has given them over to a judicial blindness, which it is almost presumptuous to contend against, and whilst professing Christians thus despair of their conversion, the world treats the idea with levity, and regards it as the amiable or idiot of enthusiastic minds.

The words of the text occur at the close of an elaborate argument, in which St. Paul proves that God hath not, and never will, finally cast off His people Israel, that having once made them the objects of His choice, that choice must stand, and that however true it may be that, viewed with reference to the Gospel, they are nationally excluded from God's favour, still viewed from the side of their national election, "they are beloved for the father's sake." "For," he adds, "the gifts and calling of God are incapable of revocation or of change."

Beside this massive truth then we take our stand, whilst examining the question of God's dealings with Israel. In a world of change it is well to remember that there is One who changes not, that amidst all the seeming intricacies of God's providential government, His purpose standeth sure, and that although we fail to trace its various movements, that purpose is ever pursuing its sure and steady progress toward its destined end.