

Romans 9

What about Israel Part 1

- **Chapter 9 – God sovereignly chose Israel**
- **Chapter 10 – Israel freely rejected God**
- **Chapter 11 – God is not done with Israel**

Intro: In our study last time we saw where Paul ended Romans Chapter 8, which was a great chapter in building our hope, confidence, assurance and joy in Christ.

A) Paul ended that glorious chapter with a bold declaration – *“Nothing could separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord!”*

B) Now the book of Romans divides into three sections:

- Chapters 1-8 deal with the Principles of Salvation;
- Chapters 12-16 deal with the Practical aspects of our Salvation.

C) Since we are saved, since God has freed us from the Law, from the power of sin, and so forth, this is how we should live.

But That leaves us Chapters 9-11, which many people have wondered why did Paul put these Chapters in here - they seem like a diversion/interruption

A) Like a preacher who goes off on some rabbit trail or tangent – I never do right?

B) But that is not the case at Romans 9-11 is not an interruption but an illustration of God's Faithfulness and His Sovereignty in salvation.

1) This is illustrated by His dealings with the Jews throughout their history and to this present day.

C) See After reading the end of Chapter 8 where God says nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ.

1) The Bible student could say, “But what about the Jews?” *Are they separated from His Love? Are they lost?*

D) And if so, what hope do we have? If they who were once God's chosen people, are they no longer walking with Him?

1) What chance do we Gentiles have?

E) Paul refutes this line of thinking in Chapters 9-11 using Israel as an illustration of the Faithfulness of God.

Outline of these 3 Chapters

Chapter 9 through Chapter 11 verse 10 tonight

Why did Paul writing Romans 9-11?

#1 – A Personal Reason – Romans 9:1-5

#2 – A Theological Reason

#1 – A Personal Reason – Romans 9:1-5

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites,

He proceeds to Explain how blessed Israel is to whom *pertain* the adoption, (Status and privilege) the glory, (Saw OT wilderness later the temple), the covenants, (Abe/ Moses/ David- further proof of God blessing and commitment) the giving of the law (God's standard for righteousness), the service of God, (His ambassadors to other nations) and the promises; (*over 7,000*)⁵ of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

That God himself would come in the form of the man Jesus! – **No denying Israel is a blessed People**

Paul pours out his heart here That his heart breaks for Israel

A) In fact even says – that he would be accursed from Christ – he would give up his salvation if Israel could be saved

B) Now that is powerful, that is challenging to me - I don't know if I could say that about the people God has called me to minister to – Sorry!

1) I would go hell if it meant you got saved – I love you but

C) Paul was incredible in his love for the people of Israel!

Why was Paul so passionate about his countrymen

A) It certainly was not because of their kindness to Him – they tried to kill him every chance they got

B) I think we find the source of his love for them in ch 10:1 **“My heart’s desire and continual prayer to God is that Israel would be saved”** – Romans 10:1

C) Paul was continually praying for his countrymen!

1) The more we pray for our unsaved friends and family – more burden grows

D) Why Jesus said: ⁴³ “You have heard that it was said, ‘*You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.*’ ⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.” Matthew 5:43-44

Jesus understands something that we don’t – it is not our natural tendency to pray for pp who hurt us

A) Lord kill them – break their teeth – David

B) Jesus knows that – if we love are enemies – love is an action – choice – not a feeling –

1) If we love our enemies and pray for those who have wronged us – our heart will change

C) I think Paul experienced that – He genuinely loved the very people who were always against him

So Paul writes these chapters for a personal reason – He had a great burden for his countrymen

A) But also for a Theological reason – he wanted to show God has Sovereignly chosen Israel to be his people

B) The Church has been born out of Israel not to replace Israel – but to be an illustration to Israel –

1) Saving Faith comes through Jesus - Not in the keeping of the Law

C) Paul is going to give us some great insight into the balance between two great theological components

1) The Sovereignty of God and the free will of man!

D) Paul is going to illustrate all of this using several key OT stories and figures - **Read V. 6-24**

Paul begins to build the case

A) When God was going to build a new nation – He Sovereignly chose the people that he was going to use to do it – Started with Abraham

B) Abraham had two sons – one son was Ishmael – product of the flesh – you remember that story. –

1) Delay in the Promise - Help God out.....

C) God wasn’t going to recognize Abe’s work of the flesh – same way he doesn’t recognize our works of the flesh.

D) He chose Isaac the son of promise – the by product of faith

Recall Chapter 5 God made a promise to Abe – nation in his old age – no son

A) Abe believed God and it was accounted to him as righteousness –

B) That is the picture Paul has been painting – building – We are all saved the same way – **We believe in the promise of God**

1) His Son Jesus – His work – You will be saved

So here Paul is talking about How he formed the nation – Started with the Son of Promise – Isaac –

A) Then Isaac had twin sons – God does something unusual

B) In that society – the first born son was always the heir 1) But God said to Isaac and his wife Rebekah – the older will serve the younger

Now this section causes some confusion about the nature of God, and Paul anticipates this with the questions in verse 14, and 19

“Is there unrighteousness with God???” – Romans 9:14

“Why does God still find fault??? Who can resist His will???” – Romans 9:19

A) You see on the surface the confusion makes sense - If God is making these decisions based on nothing more than His plan, and who He wants for that plan

B)Well – that seems unfair, how can you fault people for being who God has picked them to be
1)But understand the a point Paul is making and it is not that God chooses some individuals for salvation and some not

C)God is not saying he chooses individuals for salvation, but he talking here about choosing a nation to fulfill his purpose and plan

D)Extreme Calvinist love to use Romans 9 and other places in the scripture like John 15 to show we have no real free will

“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit” – John 15:16

A)Sounds pretty convincing, we have no choice in the matter?

B)But I remind you that context is everything – Jesus in John 15 is not talking to people about being saved,

1)He is talking to his disciples about choosing them to be in the ministry and bear fruit

C)And it is true – James and John, Peter and Andrew, they were not in Bible college training to serve the Lord

1)they were picked off of fishing boats –
2)Matthew was a traitor and a tax collector

D)Jesus says – these guys are perfect – no one expect -this will bring glory to me

1)And that is what God tells us about desire to use us

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.” –

I Corinthians 1:27-29

John 15 is about Jesus choosing disciples for ministry and Romans 9 is about God electing a nation

A)a nation that God says this about in Deuteronomy
7

“The Lord did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the Lord loves you” – Deuteronomy 7:7

B)God said I picked you Israel not because you were something special –

1)Picking them would magnify his glory

C)Think of it this way: THE GOAT MJ or Lebron – but you always have to factor into the equation who they played with- Allstars etc

D)But what if a player came along and said – I am going to win 10 titles with the worst players – guys not even drafted – rejects –

1)It would be clear – greatest of all time – no doubt

E)Back to Romans – the point here is not about Salvation – but it is about picking Isaac and Jacob – to build a nation

Verses 10-13 – the extreme Calvinist says, look God picked Jacob before he was even born, before he did anything good or bad – just like he chooses us for salvation

A)Again the text is clearly talking about the nations they will become

B)Interesting that V.13 Jacob – loved and Esau ...is not a quote from Genesis –

1)God never looked at the actual person and said, “I hate you” – find that verse for me in Genesis

C)No it comes from Malachi at the very end of the Old Testament speaking about the nations Jacob and Esau had BECOME – Israel and Edom

1)The idea of “hated” is actually loved less –

D)It is the same idea in the gospels, when Jesus says if anyone does not hate mother and father, or his own life – He is not fit to be my disciple Luke 14:26

Jesus is not teaching you are to hate your mom & DAD- That is not the heart of God

A)We are to HONOR AND RESPECT our mother and father

B)So what is he saying: That you are to make a choice to go after Him, more that you do even your family, your loved ones or even yourself.

1)It is a choice that God calls us to make

C)So when God makes that statement in Malachi that Paul quotes here it is as if God is looking back after seeing what these boys had become

D)Saw in Romans 8:34 Predestined according to the Foreknowledge of God –

1)**Elect according to the foreknowledge of God 1 Peter 1:2**

God saw ahead of time what these boys were to become – choices that would be made –

A)That Esau would sell his birthright for a bowl of stew

B)God didn't make him do that – but he knew that he was going to do that

1)Esau would care more about the Physical and the temporal than the spiritual and the Eternal

C)God didn't inspire Jacob to steal Esau's blessing – but he knew he would – Jacob wanted it more

When God said to Isaac and Rebekah–The Older will serve the younger He was stating fact

A)Interesting that Both of them would become great nations –

B)But the nation of Edom – Esau's descendants would become wicked people

C)God at the end of the OT looking back at what they have become says – Jacob I have loved – Esau I have hated -

And as a side note the know the most amazing thing about verse 13 it not that God hated Esau.

A)Esau was a jerk, with no heart for God- So It does not amaze me that God did not go with Esau

B)It amazes me that God loved Jacob-

1)See Jacob had his moments too – he rebelled – ran from God and is call on his life

C)The Amazing thing is that God can see into the future see all the stupid – rebellious things we do –

1)love us anyway!

D)So again Romans 9 is not about personal salvation, but about God choosing a nation

1)apart from anything they had done, to bring about His glorious plan

What about this idea in V.22 of God preparing people for destruction?

A)V.18 This idea of hardening Pharaoh's heart ?

B)Does God really do that?

“What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction” – Romans

9:22

C)The word “prepared” there is very interesting. It is in what the Greek scholars call, it is in the middle voice, meaning it is a reflective action verb

D)“prepare” – is a reflection action verb – meaning “they prepared themselves”

1) It is God who is enduring longsuffering – chance after chance

Pharaoh is a classic example of this:

A)Yes it is true that the Bible says in the book of Exodus that God hardened Pharaoh's heart

B)But it also says that Pharaoh hardened his heart against God

1)10 times we see Pharaoh's heart becoming hard

C)There idea is his heart was increasing in it's hardness

D)Happened during The Plagues- on Israel

1)Plague would happen – Pharaoh – enough – then change his mind – Harden his heart

Plagues

1. Blood: Pharaoh's heart “became hard” (7:22)
2. Frogs: Pharaoh “hardened his own heart” (8:15)
3. Gnats: Pharaoh's heart “was hard” (8:19)
4. Flies: “Pharaoh hardened his own heart” (8:32)
5. Livestock die: Pharaoh's heart “was hard” (9:7)

In the Hebrew if you study the words there is a progression in the wording

A)Became hard – was stubborn – moves to being stiff

B) Moves even further to becoming hard – immovable

C) Well it is not until after the 6th plague of boils that we read “The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart” (9:12)

D) It is as if God is saying to Pharaoh – I have a purpose here and you keep resisting me – **so I am going to meet you in your resistance**

Then we read after the 7th plague of Hail – Pharaoh hardened his own heart (9:34) even stronger word used for hardened

A) Then it is after that 7th plague where Pharaoh makes his heart even harder against God – that God in essences speeds up the process

B) Meeting Pharaoh in his rebellion and we read that after the plagues of Locust / the darkness and the death of the first born – that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart

C) Idea again being – God met him in his own rebellion – said – that is how you want to be ok –

Earlier in Romans 1 we read God gave rebellious people over to their own demise to do what seemed fit to them –

A) They pursued all manner of immorality was the result

**B) We noted that Part of God’s judgment is when he removes his presence and his protective hand
1) and allows us to do what we want to do**

C) And that is what God did with Pharaoh –

The Point Paul is making is you can’t blame God for people’s choices

A) If you go to your doctor and he says – don’t change your diet and lower your blood pressure – heart attack

B) You ignore that and have a heart attack – you are not going to blame your doctor

1) The only difference is God knows ahead of time whether or not you are going to follow him and his instruction or not

Paul is illustrating in our text that God is both loving but he is also just

A) Paul says in I Timothy 2:4 **God desires all to be saved –**

B) John says **He has made a way for all to be saved, I John 2:2**

C) **Yet all do not respond to His will – Matthew 23:37**

I believe the idea of God’s sovereignty showed to us in Romans 9 does not portray this God who wields his power in an unfair and unloving way

A) But a God who “draws near to those who draw near to Him”

B) A God who lets people do what they choose to do, but uses their choices for His own purposes and plan

C) His purpose of lavishing grace on as many as will come to respond to the love, He has given

1) **For God so loved the world, and desires non to perish**

D) But in his infinite wisdom and sovereignty, lets those who want to go their own way do so.

E) For those who follow him -we see His grace and mercy, goodness, longsuffering

1) And for those who do not respond we see God’s justice and holiness

F) The question is which type of person will you will be??? Your choice

Well back to Romans 9- Paul turns a corner in V.25 – revealing the connection between the Church/ Gentiles and Israel

²⁵ As He says also in Hosea: *“I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.”*

²⁶ *“And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.”*

²⁷ **Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel:**

“Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea,

The remnant will be saved.

²⁸ *For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness,
Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.”*

²⁹ And as Isaiah said before:

*“Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed,
We would have become like Sodom,
And we would have been made like Gomorrah.”*

God has never given up on Israel – Always a remnant – a seed

A) Paul will be emphatic in Chapter 11 I say then, has God cast away His people? **Certainly not!**

B) Paul is going to explain – that Salvation would come from the Jews Jesus was a Jew

1) Those first raised up to preach the Gospel were Jews – Paul himself was a Jew

C) Paul alludes to that here in v.30

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; ³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. ³² Why? Because *they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.* ³³ As it is written:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense,

And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.”

Paul is saying what we are seeing now you have seen before.

A) Remember Hosea – the Prophet who married a woman Gomer -who forsook him and became a Harlot

B) She had Children in her harlotry – Gomer was a picture of the nation of Israel who forsook God - went whoring after other God’s and nations

C) Remember what God said to Hosea – Go and love her again – Hosea was not to give up on Gomer – God hasn’t given up on us

1) Go love her – take her children of harlotry and make them your own

That is what God was going to do –

A) He never gave up on Israel – there was always a remnant of those who followed him and loved him

B) From the nation of Israel – God was going to do a new thing – take a people who were not his people and make them his people

1) The connecting point would be Jesus

C) Jesus would be the stone that the builders rejected – Stone of Salvation to those who believe – and stumbling stone to those who don’t

That is what we see today – all over the world – people who have embraced Jesus as Messiah – Jews and Gentiles alike

A) Also those who of their own free will have rejected Jesus

B) People who stumble over Jesus because they don’t want to follow God

1) Offended we say – Jesus is the only way

C) Jesus people who stumble over Jesus because they have ignored the scriptures that pointed to a Messiah who would come twice

1) First time as a lamb – ransom for many – suffer for the sins of people

D) Come a second time – Rule and reign –

1) Jewish people in Paul’s day and this present day ignore the passages that spoke of suffering Messiah

E) Hosea said – My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge because they have rejected knowledge!

That is the idea that Paul is going to build on in Chapter 10