

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 2

Introduction: Last week in our study of Romans we started to look at Romans 9-11. It is in these chapters that we are going to learn about God's relationship with the Nation of Israel. As Gentiles we are focused upon the church and what the New Testament says concerning our position IN CHRIST. We have been studying Ephesians where we have been looking at the riches which we have IN JESUS CHRIST. We talk about how we are all one IN CHRIST and how there is neither Jew nor Gentile IN CHRIST.

Galatians 3:26-28

²⁶ For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.

²⁷ For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

So, we who are Gentiles don't think much about God's relationship with Israel. Actually, there are many believers who have no idea how important God's plans for the Nation of Israel is in relation to the church. We become so accustomed to the blessings that we have IN CHRIST that we take it for granted and so God's plans for the Nation of Israel are not a concern for many believers. This state of mind can be very dangerous.

Psalm 49:20

²⁰ Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.

The chapters that are before us will provide us with a deeper knowledge of God's plan for the Nation of Israel. Here again is the outline for these three chapters:

- **Israel's past relationship with God**
Romans 9
- **Israel's present relationship with Israel.**
Romans 10
- **Israel's future relationship with God**
Romans 11

There are many who teach that the Church has replaced the Nation of Israel, but a closer study of God's Word makes it very clear that God has set Israel aside for the present, but after the church is complete and is raptured away, God will work with Israel again. He will establish them in their land and establish the Kingdom which has been promised to them.

We have just worked our way through Romans 8 where we were able to see some amazing Truths concerning our security as believers. The chapter began with NO CONDEMNATION and it ended with NO SEPERATION. In Christ we are secure, and we have God's promises to testify to this. So, the question that would then arise would be, "What about Israel?" They too were given promises and covenants, they too are called the ELECT of God. Have they been cast away? And if they have, then can the same thing happen to us? The answers to these questions are in Romans 9-11.

I. Israel's past relationship with God

Romans 9

A. Paul's Sorrow

Notice Romans 9:1-3

In our look at these verses last week we considered Paul heart felt sorrow for his fellow Israelites. He longed so deeply to see them saved that he was willing to give up his own salvation in order for them to be saved. Paul's sorrow was continual, meaning that his heart was constantly burdened for them.

These three verses reflect the heart of Jesus Christ in Paul. He was desiring to do the very same thing that Jesus Christ did. He gave up His place in heaven to come here and experience our hell so that we could be saved.

Last week we considered why the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write down his heart felt concern. Let me share with you Stedman's thoughts on this:

"I am sure that to the Jews of his own day the apostle sounded like an enemy. As he preached and taught the riches that are in Christ Jesus and centered and focused everything on the Person of Messiah, the Person of Christ, he became, in the eyes of the Jews of his day, their enemy. This has remained true of the nation of Israel. They see him in that way. Had a Jew read the letter to the Romans, he would have regarded it as a gigantic put-down to the whole nation. Paul's ministry everywhere stirred up the antagonism of the Jews. He made them angry and upset, even violent in their rage against him. And yet, he is not their enemy, as he himself makes clear here. He is their loving, hurting friend. It breaks his heart that he has to tell them these things. The hurt is real."

As I look at these first three verses, I can see two reasons why Paul has recorded these words:

1. It helps us to see how our hearts SHOULD respond to the unsaved.
2. It helps the Jew to see that Paul was not their enemy and they really needed to listen to what he was saying.

Illustration:

A man said to a friend, "I hear you dismissed your pastor. What was wrong?" The friend said, "Well, he kept telling us we were going to hell." The man said, "What does the new pastor say?" The friend said, "The new pastor keeps saying we're going to hell too." "So, what's the difference?" "Well," the friend said, "the difference is that when the first one said it, he sounded like he was glad of it, but when the new man says it, he sounds like it is breaking his heart."

B. Israel's Privileges

Now as we move on Paul is going to give a list of 8 privileges which the Israelites were given:

Notice Romans 9:4-5

These two verses contain the eight privileges and we are going to examine them in detail.

1. To the Israelites pertain the adoption.

The Nation of Israel is referred to as God's son in the Old Testament which means they had a very unique relationship that no other nation had.

Exodus 4:21-23

²¹ And the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

²² And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, Israel is my son, even my firstborn:

²³ And I say unto thee, Let my son go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, even thy firstborn.

In the Old Testament there were several privileges which belonged to the firstborn.

a. The firstborn received a double portion of his father's inheritance.

Deuteronomy 21:15-17

¹⁵ If a man have two wives, one beloved, and another hated, and they have born him children, both the beloved and the hated; and if the firstborn son be hers that was hated:

¹⁶ Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn:

¹⁷ But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

b. The firstborn inherited the judicial authority from his father.

2 Chronicles 21:1-3

Now Jehoshaphat slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David. And Jehoram his son reigned in his stead.

² And he had brethren the sons of Jehoshaphat, Azariah, and Jehiel, and Zechariah, and Azariah, and Michael, and Shephatiah: all these were the sons of Jehoshaphat king of Israel.

³ And their father gave them great gifts of silver, and of gold, and of precious things, with fenced cities in Judah: but the kingdom gave he to Jehoram; because he was the firstborn.

c. The firstborn inherited the priestly duties of the family.

All three of these privileges apply to the Nation of Israel. They will inherit the land. They are promised the Kingdom. From Israel would come the Great High Priest, Jesus Christ.

So, there are great benefits concerning the adoption. Let me also add that Israel's adoption is NATIONAL ours however is PERSONAL. Now there is a point here for those who believe God is finished with Israel. If He has cast Israel away, then that means the adoption has been reversed and let those who believe this remember that we too have received the adoption. This would mean that our adoption could be reversed also, which means we could lose our salvation.

2. To the Israelites pertain the glory.

The GLORY refers to the visible manifestation of the presence of God.

Let me show you a few of the ways in which they had the glory.

- a. Israel had the presence of God to lead them as they came out of Egypt with the Pillar of Cloud and the Pillar of Fire.
- b. They had the presence of the Lord in the Tabernacle.

Exodus 40:34-38

³⁴ Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁵ And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.

³⁶ And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys:

³⁷ But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up.

³⁸ For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

c. Israel had the glory of the Lord in the Temple.

1 Kings 8:10-11

¹⁰ And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy place, that the cloud filled the house of the LORD.

¹¹ So that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of the LORD.

No other nation ever had this blessing but Israel!

Deuteronomy 4:7

⁷ For what nation is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for?

3. To the Israelites pertain the Covenants.

To Israel there was given 5 Covenants. To all other nations there is one Covenant.

1. The Covenant to all Nations.

The Covenant that has been given to all nations is the Noahic Covenant. This Covenant is unconditional, which means it was based upon the faithfulness of God. This Covenant was made with Noah and all his descendants.

Genesis 9:8-17

⁸ And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him, saying,

⁹ And **I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;**

¹⁰ And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.

¹¹ And **I will** establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.

¹² And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:

¹³ I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴ And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud:

¹⁵ And **I will** remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh.

¹⁶ And the bow shall be in the cloud; and **I will** look upon it, that **I may remember** the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth.

¹⁷ And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which **I have established** between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

There are two promises with this Noahic Covenant for all nations.

1. God would never again bring a global flood.

¹¹ And I will establish my covenant with you, **neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.**

2. There would always day and night and seasons.

Genesis 8:21-22

²¹ And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

²² While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.

This is the only Covenant for ALL nations. The other Covenants pertained to Israel only.

Conclusion:

Next week we shall begin a close look at Israel's Covenants.

1. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (Genesis 15:7-21; 17:1-14)
2. THE MOSAIC COVENANT (Exodus 19:5-8)
3. THE LAND COVENANT (Deuteronomy 29-30).
4. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 Samuel 7:5-19)
5. THE NEW COVENANT (Jeremiah 31:31-36)