

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 8

Introduction: In our study of Romans we are in chapter 9 where we are looking at God relationship with Israel in the past. We are currently looking at the privileges which God has given to the Nation of Israel. Paul is pouring out these Truths to help us to see that God has not cast away the Nation of Israel. God has a future for His people and when the church is complete God will again work with Israel.

Notice Romans 9:4-5

There are 8 privileges listed here and we have looked at 3 of them so far.

1. **The Adoption** - This speaks of the Nation of Israel being the first born of God.
2. **The Glory** - In this we looked at how Israel was blessed because they had the presence of God.
3. **The Covenants** - We took several weeks to look at 4 of the 5 covenants which God made with Israel and this study helped us to see that Israel has a bright future as God will one day fulfill the covenants in the Millennial Kingdom.

This now brings us to where we are tonight in our study. We are not going to spend as much time on the remaining privileges, but we shall just touch on the high points.

4. **The Giving of the Law** - This is a reference to the Law of Moses given to the nation at Mt. Sinai.

Nehemiah 9:13-14

¹³ Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments:

¹⁴ And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant:

Israel was distinct from all other nations because they were given the Law of Moses. The Law revealed the Holiness of God and the sinfulness of man. It instructed Israel how to live so that they would be separated from all other nations. They had the Moral Law, Ceremonial Law, and the Civil Law and contained in the Law of Moses.

Romans 3:1-2

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?

² Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

The word "oracles" refers to the "utterances" of God. God spoke directly to this nation. No other nation could claim the same experience.

5. **The Service of God** - This involved the Tabernacle and the Temple along with the worship of God. Israel was privileged because they were given the way to worship. They were instructed about how to approach God. Let me show you the Words Jesus spoke to the woman at the well.

John 4:22-23

²² Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

²³ *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.*

6. **The Promises** - This is a reference to the promises which God made with the Nation of Israel outside of the covenants. There would be certain promises that pointed to the Messiah. There would be certain promises that pointed to the details of the Kingdom. Here is an example from Isaiah concerning the conditions of the Kingdom.

Isaiah 65:25

²⁵ *The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the LORD.*

In Isaiah 9 we see addition promises pertaining to Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

These are only a few of the many promises given to Israel.

7. **The Fathers** - This is a reference to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. By mentioning the FATHERS Paul is excluding anyone who did not come through the line of all three.
8. **The Messiah, Jesus Christ** - The greatest privilege is saved for last. From the Nation of Israel Jesus Christ was born. His humanity can be traced to Israel and His Deity can be traced to God.

Before we look at the end of verse 5, I want to borrow from another teacher a very important application here.

Luke 12:47-48

⁴⁷ And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

⁴⁸ But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

Israel had been given much and so they were held to a high level of accountability. Notice the application by Zeller:

"What has God given to us? What advantages and benefits do we have? What are we doing with what we have been given? Do we have a Bible? (not just the Old Testament but the completed Bible, 66 Books!) What are we doing with the Bible that we have? Has God given us the privilege of being His children (John 1:12)? Has He given us commands to obey and promises to believe? Has He given us examples of godly men and women from the past for us to follow? Have we been given a local church where the true worship of God may take place? What are we doing with His Church? What are we doing with His Word? What are we doing with the Lord Jesus Christ? We need to take advantage of all of our benefits."

With all we have I can assure you we will be held to a higher level of accountability.

Notice Romans 9:5 again.

Many see within this verse one of the greatest statements pertaining to the Deity of Jesus Christ. The verse is saying that Jesus Christ is over all, He is God and He is blessed forever.

Now as we continue Paul is going to address a concern that he anticipates many will have and to understand that concern we have to understand that Israel had all these privileges but still rejected her Messiah. Let me show you the words of Zellers again on this thought:

"What did Israel do with all of these benefits? Did they take advantage of their advantages? Were they blessed by their blessings? Did they benefit from all their benefits? Herein lies the tragedy. Though there were godly exceptions (Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Caleb, David, Daniel, Jeremiah, etc.) the nation for the most part did not take advantage of what they had. Instead they (1) dishonored and despised God as their Father (Mal. 1:6); (2) they placed no value on the presence of God in their midst; (3) they lost sight of God's covenant commitments; (4) they broke God's law (Jer. 31:32); (5) their worship lost its reality and became an empty ritual; (6) the great promises were not mixed with faith (Heb. 3:18-4:2); (7) they did not follow in the steps of faithful Abraham who believed God (Rom. 4:11-12); and last but most significantly, (8) they crucified their own Messiah."

Notice Romans 9:6a

The phrase **"Not as though the Word of God hath taken none effect"** is in contrast with the response of the Nation of Israel to their privileges. The phrase "taken none effect" is one word in the Greek and it means "to fail" or "to fall powerless to the ground". Israel failed to see Jesus Christ as he Messiah, but the Word of God has not failed. Let me show you how the Word is used in Acts.

Acts 27:17

*¹⁷ Which when they had taken up, they used helps, undergirding the ship; and, fearing lest they should **fall** into the quicksands, strake sail, and so were driven.*

The word "FALL" is the same word and it has the idea of "running aground". You see the Old Testament tells of the great covenants and promises which God made with Israel. It tells of the coming Messiah who will set upon the throne of David and establish His Kingdom forever. Israel will be gathered to her land and will be blessed forever. But when Jesus shows up, they reject Him and crucify Him. It looks like the "ship has run aground" so to speak. It looks like all of God's promises of the Old Testament have fallen powerless to the ground. But they have not run aground, and they have not fallen powerless to the ground and this is what Paul is going to explain.

Now there are two reasons why Paul addresses this concern.

1. The Church.

Back in Romans 8 we looked at the promises of God to the church. We were taught about our adoption, about how all things work together for good, , how we who are the body of Christ are predestined to be conformed into the image of Jesus Christ, about how nothing can separate us from the love of Christ and about how we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us in all that we face.

So, the question is, "Can the promises made to the church run aground?" There are times when it does not seem like all things work together for our good and there are times when I don't feel like I am even a conqueror and certainly not more than a conqueror so I wonder if God's Word is still effective as promised? The answer is, "YES!!!" This is what Paul is about to explain. God is true to His Word. All the promises to Israel are still going to be fulfilled and the promises to the church will be fulfilled also.

Israel rejected her Messiah but that too was part of the plan of God as we shall see. This does not mean that Israel has been cast away. Sometimes in our lives God's plans unfold slowly but there is a reason.

2. The Jew.

The Jew who would read Romans 9 would have another concern and questions, "What about all the Israelites that died unsaved and went to hell? Did the promises not apply to them? How did the promises not fail if many did not receive the fulfillment?" We are going to get the answer to this in the verses that follow.

Notice Romans 9:6 again.

The end of this verse is so very important to understand. I want to examine the end of this verse in phrases:

a. "Which are of Israel".

When we think of Israel we think of the nation and that is the context of Romans 9-11 but here in this verse "Israel" refers to Jacob. We see Jacob's name changed to Israel in Genesis 32 when he wrestled with God.

Genesis 32:26-28

²⁶ *And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.*

²⁷ *And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.*

²⁸ *And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.*

Now what Paul is saying in Romans 9:6 is this: even if someone is a descendant of Jacob and is from one of the twelve tribes of Israel it does not mean they are a true Israelite. A true Jew is one who has four Fathers. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and God. In other words, a true Jew is one who is saved. It is not enough for a Jew to be circumcised in the flesh, but they also must be circumcised in the heart. This then brings us to the next phrase:

b. "They are not all Israel".

For the Jew to come from the line of Jacob in physical birth did not guarantee them the promises of God and the fulfillment of the covenants. The promises only pertain to those who were saved.

Now let me stop here for a moment and help you with another Truth that is very important. The Jews who are saved in the church age are not those who will receive the promises and the covenants promised to Israel. The Jew who is saved today and anytime between Pentecost and the Rapture gives up their identity in Jesus Christ.

Galatians 3:27-28

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.*

Ephesians 2:13-15

¹³ *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

¹⁴ *For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

¹⁵ *Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

All who are IN CHRIST become ONE NEW MAN Corporately, that is we become the body of Jesus Christ. We are new in the sense that the church did not exist before Pentecost and it will be complete when the Rapture happens. All the Jews who get saved in the Church Age will receive all the spiritual blessings in Christ. The Jews of the Old Testament who were saved and the Jews of the Tribulation who will get saved will receive the fulfillment of the covenants and the promises God gave to Israel.

Conclusion:

Next week we will continue and see much more detail pertaining to the sovereignty of God. We will see how God chose certain men to carry on the line of promise.