

"God's Relationship with Israel"**Romans 9-11****Part 11**

Introduction: Tonight, we are returning to our study of Romans 9. We are currently looking at the sovereignty of God in the choosing of the Nation of Israel. Paul teaches us what is recorded here for several reasons. There is a question as to what happened to the covenants and the promises God made to Israel. They were given the glory, the adoption, the covenants, the law, the service, the promises, the fathers and the promise of the Messiah. They had these 8 privileges but when Jesus came, they rejected Him and crucified Him. So, it gives the appearance that God's promises have run aground. Then along with that is the reality that many of the Jews have died in their sins and went to hell. So, the question is, "Did the Word of God fail?" The answer is "NO". Paul then goes on to explain a very important Truth.

Notice Romans 9:6

He tells us here that they are not all Israel that are of Israel. In other words, just because a Jew was a descendant of Jacob that did not make them a true Jew. Notice again what Paul wrote in Romans 2.

Romans 2:28-29

²⁸ For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

²⁹ But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

A true Jew had to have 4 fathers. He had to be able to claim Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and GOD as his Father. To help us to see this Paul takes us down a path of explanation to show us the sovereignty of God.

I. The Election of Isaac**Notice Romans 9:7-9**

Abraham had fathered both Ishmael and Isaac. Ishmael however was a child of the flesh. This means he was conceived in the power and planning of Abraham. Isaac was also fathered by Abraham, but he was the product of God's power working in Abraham. He was

the child of promise. Abraham desired that God would accept Ishmael to carry on the promises, but God would not.

Genesis 17:15-19

¹⁵ And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

¹⁶ And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

¹⁷ Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

¹⁸ And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

¹⁹ And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

The covenants and the promises would be fulfilled through the line of Isaac not Ishmael.

II. The Election of Jacob

Now Paul takes us even deeper into the sovereignty of God as he now points to God's election of Jacob over Esau.

Notice Romans 9:10

We looked briefly at this verse last week. In verse 10 we are told that Rebecca conceived by one. This conception was by Isaac. The ONE spoken of in this verse refers to "ONE SEXUAL ACT". Isaac and Jacob were both from the line of Abraham, but they were two separate sexual acts with two different women. But Jacob and Esau were conceived by one sexual act for they were twins.

Notice Romans 9:11

Before the twins were born God made the choice that through Jacob the covenants and the promises would be fulfilled. Now this verse is very interesting because it proves a very popular teaching to be wrong. You see, many teach that God chose Jacob because in His foreknowledge He looked down the corridor of time and was able to see that Esau and his people would be evil. So, they say, that is why God chose Jacob. Well, this verse tells us that God chose Esau not because of works.

Notice Romans 9:11 again.

God's choice of Jacob was according to His own purpose of election. The word "purpose" means "display or show". So, we can know that God in His election of Jacob was to put on display His sovereignty. He also chose Israel as His elect to be the nation who would represent Him to the world in the Old Testament/they would be on display. Today the church is the elect, so we are His representatives.

Notice Romans 9:12

Paul now points back to when Rebecca was pregnant with the twins.

Genesis 25:21-24

²¹ And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the LORD.

²³ And the LORD said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

²⁴ And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

Here we see that God chose Jacob before they were ever born. His choice was contrary to the normal. For it was normally the elder child through whom the line of promise went through.

God chose Jacob before he was ever born, before either boy did any thing good or bad. Jacob was God's sovereign choice to carry on the promises which had been made with Abraham.

Now again I need to make something very clear in this teaching. The subject of election here cannot be applied to individuals for salvation. That is NOT the context. This is about God choosing those who would carry on the line of promise as God developed the Nation of Israel. This is NATIONAL ELECTION it has nothing to do with choosing people for salvation.

Notice Romans 9:13

Here is a verse that is misunderstood by many people. If we use the Bible to interpret Scripture, we can clearly see what is being said here. This is a quote from Malachi.

Malachi 1:1-3

The burden of the word of the LORD to Israel by Malachi.

² *I have loved you, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, Wherein hast thou loved us? Was not Esau Jacob's brother? saith the LORD: **yet I loved Jacob.***

³ *And **I hated Esau**, and laid his mountains and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness.*

Instead of seeing these words as absolutes they are to be seen as comparatives. Let me use some verses with the same words used for LOVE and HATE here that will help us to better understand what God is saying.

Deuteronomy 21:15-16

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:*

Here in this text the idea is that one wife is PREFERRED over the other. She is not literally hated as we think of hatred. The beloved wife is simply favored over the other wife.

Luke 14:25-26

²⁵ *And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them,*

²⁶ *If any man come to me, and **hate** not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

Jesus uses the same word for hate here when He tells us in order to be His disciple, we must HATE our father, mother, wife, children, brothers and sisters. If this is meant to be absolute, then there is a problem. Let me show you why I say this. In the 5th Commandment we read these words:

Exodus 20:12

12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

In the 5th Commandment God tells His people to honor their parents. So, what Jesus said in Luke can not mean to hate our parents as we think of hatred.

Ephesians 5:25

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

Here we see that we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church. So, if what Jesus said in Luke is an absolute then He contradicted the Scriptures. What Jesus is saying in Luke 14 is not that we are to despise our spouse or parents but that we are to favor Jesus Christ over them.

That is exactly what God means in Malachi 1 and Romans 9 when He says, "Jacob have I loved, and Esau have I hated." God in His sovereign choice favored Jacob over Esau. It was not because one was evil and the other righteous. It was simply God's will to chose Jacob that through him and his seed the covenants and the promises would find their fulfillment.

Now before we move on to the next verse let me raise a question, "Why is this recorded here?" Because there is much confusion and animosity over who the chosen people really are. The descendants of Ishmael want to claim the promises and the covenants and so do the descendants of Esau. This section makes it very clear that the line of promise goes from Abraham through Isaac and then through Jacob. It does not go through Ishmael or Esau. The reason it is this way is because God in His sovereignty chose to make it so.

Now as Paul continues, he anticipates someone raising an objection such as, "That is not fair. Why did God choose to love/favor Jacob over Esau? How could God do such a thing? I thought He was a God of justice."

Notice Romans 9:14

Here is the objection which Paul anticipated. Is there unrighteousness with God? The word "unrighteousness" means wickedness, injustice, wrong action or wrong decision, being unjust or unfair. Is there unrighteousness (unfairness) with God? The question expects a negative answer. There is no unrighteousness with God. There was unrighteousness with Jacob and Esau but not God.

Genesis 18:25

*25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: **Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?***

God can do no wrong and if He did, He would cease to be God. People struggle over the fact that God hated Esau. But the truly amazing thing is that God would love Jacob. They were both sinners just as we are. If God were to operate in absolute justice none of us would be alive and none of us would have salvation. We deserve nothing but judgment and wrath. The amazing thing is that God has made the choice to love every single sinner that has ever entered into the world.

Many Bible critics spend much of their time finding fault with God. I have heard people ask the question, "If God were a loving God then why does He allow cancer in the human race?" The critic finds fault with God allowing cancer. But they are missing the point. The amazing thing is that some of us do not have cancer for we all deserve to get every disease for all diseases are the result of sin in the world and we are all sinners.

Many people find fault with God because the Bible tells us the unsaved die and go to hell. Again, they miss the point. The amazing point is that He would show mercy and grace to anyone. There is not one of us who is worthy.

Notice Romans 9:15

Let us notice that the first word of this verse is a connective, so we have here an explanation. In this explanation Paul points back to Exodus to conversation between God and Moses.

Exodus 33:18

¹⁸ And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory.

When Moses says, "Show me thy glory", he is asking to see the CHARACTER of God. So, in the next verse we read the words which Paul uses in Romans 9.

Exodus 33:19

¹⁹ And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

So, God's Words to Moses are, in my sovereignty I will show compassion and mercy upon whom I will. This is the Truth which many struggle with. God extends mercy and compassion to some and not to others. This is extremely difficult for us to accept but again I remind you of two points:

1. God is NOT unrighteous.
2. None of us deserve God's mercy.

So, when God shows mercy to some, He is righteous in doing so, and He is withholding the judgment that we deserve. You see mercy is not getting what we deserve.

Notice Romans 9:16

Here now Paul pulls these thoughts together. He explains that whomever is the recipient of God compassion and mercy it is not because they deserved it or sought for it. This verse tells us it is not of the will of the recipient nor of the efforts of the recipient. But it is all of God.

Now, I need to stop here for a moment and bring something else into view. In this passage the CONTEXT is God's sovereignty pertaining to MERCY and NOT salvation. God chose Jacob over Esau NOT for salvation, but He chose that through him the line of promise would continue. Many want to make the focus here on salvation and that is NOT the context. Paul is explaining that God shows mercy to whomever He wills. He can use anyone He desires to magnify His name and bring glory to Him. The Bible teaches that salvation is available to ALL men.

2 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

In these verses we can see that Jesus died for the sins of every person.

1 Timothy 2:1-4

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

² For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

⁴ Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Here we see it is God's will for all people to be saved.

Let me pull some thoughts together here. We are all sinners and we all deserve God's judgment and wrath. God however does not desire that any of us perish. Hell was not made for men but for the Devil and his angels. So, God has made a way for man to be saved through His Son Jesus Christ based upon His finished work on the cross. Those who are alive today are the recipients of God's mercy. None of us deserve life. Mercy can rapidly come to an end, however. You can die unsaved or God can make the choice to harden your heart and like Pharaoh, He can use you in your rebellion to make His name known to many.

Notice Romans 9:17-18

Conclusion:

If you are not saved, you need to repent and come to Jesus Christ right now. God has extended mercy and grace to you, but His mercy can be cut off without warning. To continue to suppress the Truth of the Gospel is very dangerous.

Proverbs 29:1

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.