

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 19

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we are coming back to chapter 10 and we shall finish this chapter this evening. In this chapter Paul has been teaching us about the salvation offered to the Jews and their rejection of God's salvation. Paul explained that they needed to believe the Gospel which had been preached to them.

Notice Romans 10:9-13

Paul then went on to explain that in order for anyone to believe in Jesus Christ he or she first must HEAR the message of the Gospel.

Notice Romans 10:14-15

Paul then reaches back to Isaiah 53 to borrow the Words of Isaiah.

Notice Romans 10:16

This is a very sad verse. Isaiah asks the question, "Who hath believed our report?" and the answer is, "NOT VERY MANY!" Many have made the choice to disobey God's command to believe.

1 John 3:23

²³ *And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.*

Last week I told you that men accept good news about sports, stocks, their occupations, physical health, elections and so on, but they reject the greatest news of all. They reject the good news that comes from God which tells them He has made a way for man to have fellowship with Him for all eternity. People believe in all kinds of strange things, but they reject the good news concerning the finished work of Jesus Christ.

This is exactly what many of the Jews have done.

Romans 10:2-3

² *For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*

³ *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

Notice Romans 10:17

Here in this verse Paul sums up the previous verses. Faith comes by "REPORT" and "REPORT" based upon the Word of God. People must hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ before they can ever believe and be saved. It is not enough for us to "live the life" before the unsaved, they must also hear the report that has changed our lives. To keep this in context, Paul is stating that the Jew must hear the Gospel in order to be saved.

This now brings us to where we are in our study tonight.

God's Relationship with Israel in the Present

Part 7

Romans 10

Notice Romans 10:18

Paul begins this verse with a question. The question is, "Has Israel not heard?" Let us remember the previous verse. Faith comes by hearing. So, Paul raises the question as to whether they have heard or not. He then states that they have heard. He then quotes from a very unexpected portion of Scripture. He points back to Psalm 19.

Psalm 19:1-4a

The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

² Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

³ There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

⁴ Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

God had revealed Himself to the world through His creation. This is what we looked at in Romans 1.

Romans 1:18-20

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Paul quoted from Psalm 19 because the Old Testament belonged to Israel. It was in a sense "their" Word or their Psalm. Now this then raises several other questions, "Did they not believe Psalm 19, "Was believing the content of Psalm 19 enough to save them?"

Believing the content of Psalm 19 would not save them. But a proper response to Psalm 19 would have brought the grace of God into their lives in the sense that He would have sent someone to preach the Gospel to them. Notice the words of an unnamed writer:

"It is important to note what Paul is not saying. Paul is not saying in this section that the Gospel was present in the stars or in the Creation (you may have heard this taught, but it is absolutely incorrect). Natural revelation points people to God but natural revelation is insufficient to save. If men reject God's natural revelation, they are lost. If they respond to natural revelation, God will somehow get them the special revelation of the Gospel."

Many of Israel have rejected the revelation given to them. They believe in a "god", but it is not the True God. For the Jew or Gentile who responds properly to the revelation which God gives to them, God sends to them someone to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We see this Truth in God's Word.

Acts 8:26-35

²⁶ And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

²⁷ And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

²⁸ Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.

²⁹ Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

³⁰ And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

³¹ And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

³² The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

³³ In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

³⁴ *And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?*

³⁵ *Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.*

The eunuch did not suppress the Truth given to him but instead he desired to understand it, so God sent Philip to share the Gospel.

God has revealed Himself through creation to all the world and it is man's responsibility to properly respond to the revelation given to him. When man responds in the proper way God sends a preacher. Let us remember it is God who does the sending so He can send preachers wherever they are needed.

Matthew 9:38

³⁸ *Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*

People always want to know what will happen to the heathen in the jungle who have no church or preacher? The Bible tells us he is without excuse.

Romans 1:20

²⁰ *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

He is without excuse because he has the revelation of creation and if he responds to this revelation in the proper way God will send a preacher with the Gospel.

Notice Romans 10:19

We need to first of all look at the question which Paul raises here. He asks, "Did not Israel not know?" The question is "Did Israel not know what?" Paul asks, "Did they not know that God would send the message out to the entire world even to the despised Gentiles?" The answer is they should have known because their own Scriptures foretold of it. Paul quotes here from the words of Moses.

Deuteronomy 32:21

²¹ *They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.*

Israel had provoked God to jealousy because they turned from Him to idols. They provoked Him by turning to that which was not God and so He would in turn reach out to a people who were no people. He would turn from them to send the Gospel to the Gentiles in order to move them to jealousy that they might repent and seek after Him.

Notice Romans 10:19 again.

This verse refers to the Gentiles as a nation that was foolish. The word "foolish" means "to be without understanding". The Jews who should have had great understanding because of all God had given to them, would reject the Gospel, but the Gentiles who had no understanding would accept the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This was a design to move Israel to repentance and to make salvation available to the Gentiles.

Notice Romans 10:20-21

Paul now quotes from the words of Isaiah.

Isaiah 65:1-2

I am sought of them that asked not for me; I am found of them that sought me not: I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.

² I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

Let us look closely at what Paul is saying here.

Notice Romans 10:20 again.

Isaiah was very bold, and he made it very clear that God was seeking out Gentile believers. This verse magnifies the grace of God in our lives. God sought after us as we were moving away from Him. We were not seeking Him, but He revealed Himself to us and we found Him. This shines more light upon what is recorded in Romans 3.

Romans 3:10-12

¹⁰ As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

¹¹ There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

¹² They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

We who know Jesus Christ as Savior have so much to be thankful for. God has patiently sought after us when we were His enemies and as He sought after us He also revealed Himself to us. This takes my mind back to the Garden of Eden.

Genesis 3:7-13

⁷ And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden it was God who sought them out and revealed to them His plan of a future Redeemer. In the same way it is the Lord who has sought us.

Luke 19:10

¹⁰ For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

We owe all of our praise to the Lord for our salvation for He is the One who sought after us while we were deep in sin and while we were set against His will. We were His enemies. We were wondering through the spiritual darkness and God continued to stand on our path so that we would find Him.

He patiently revealed Himself to us as His Spirit stirred our hearts in preparation of salvation. He took us through many experiences and patiently waited as we sought to fulfill the desires of the flesh. We resisted the convictions as we attempted to justify our sins. We did our best to hide from Him just as Adam and Eve. But His love was too deep to let us go. So, He continued to seek after us.

Ephesians 2:1-5

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

² *Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:*

³ *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*

⁴ *But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,*

⁵ *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved:)*

As He sought us and revealed Himself to us, it was our responsibility to believe in hearts the Gospel message.

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Notice Romans 10:21

Throughout history God has reached out to the Nation of Israel. He calls them a "gainsaying" people and the word means "in opposition to God, rebellious, refusing to have anything to do with God". God has patiently stretched forth His loving hands both on the cross and toward the people of Israel as He longs for them to turn to Him.

Conclusion:

God was so willing! Man is so rebellious! God has and is going to great lengths to reach the lost and to bring them to repentance. Those who are lost have only themselves to blame. To reject the remedy which God has so graciously provided and offered is to be without a cure.

Proverbs 1:24

²⁴ *Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;*