

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 1

Introduction: Tonight, in our study of Romans we are entering into three chapters which could be considered a parenthesis. Romans 8 will connect with Romans 12 and in Romans 12 we shall see the Doctrine of Consecration. It will be starting in Romans 12 that we shall see how to live the theology which we have learned in the first eight chapters. But before we get to Romans 12, we must work our way through Romans 9, 10, and 11.

Now, as we step into Romans 9, we shall see that there is going to be a drastic change in focus, but it is for a very good reason.

Notice Romans 9:1-5

Here we see the change in focus. Paul is now going to be focused upon the Nation of Israel. The question which comes up at the beginning of this chapter is, "Why does Paul begin to teach his readers about Israel and why use three chapters to do so?" We will see the answer in a moment. But first let me take you back to Romans 8.

In Romans 8 we learned many spiritual Truths. Let me summarize a few of the points:

1. There is no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus.
2. God has freed us from the law of sin and death.
3. The Holy Spirit empowers us for our new life in Christ.
4. The Holy Spirit now lives the life of Jesus Christ through us.
5. We have received the Spirit of adoption which means we are "son placed" into God's family.
6. We are heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ.
7. The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in our prayer life.
8. Everything in our lives works together for good.
9. We are being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.
10. God guarantees our glorification.
11. No person, being or situation can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Notice Romans 8:38-39

Romans 8 starts with NO CONDEMNATION and ends with NO SEPERATION. There is not a greater chapter which speaks of the believer's security in Jesus Christ. So, we have all these promises of Romans 8 as well as many more that affirm our security. This all means that we can in no way lose our salvation.

So now another question comes up, "What about Israel?" Like the church they are called the ELECT and like the church they have been adopted and like the church they have been given many promises. They were God's chosen people. So, where are they now? In the church there is neither Jew or Gentile.

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.**

Colossians 3:10-11

¹⁰ *And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:*

¹¹ **Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.**

So here is the question which many would raise, "Is God done with Israel and if so, can the same thing happen to us?" They rejected their Messiah and now they seemed to have been abandoned by God so if this can happen to Israel can it happen to us? Where does Israel stand in the Church Age?

In the chapters that are before us we are going to see God's relationship with the Nation of Israel. We are going to see that God has not abandoned His people Israel. Let me show you an outline for the next three chapters.

I. Israel's past relationship with God

Romans 9

II. Israel's present relationship with Israel.

Romans 10

III. Israel's future relationship with God

Romans 11

Let me show you what George Zeller says concerning the importance of these three chapters:

"In order to understand this section, we need to try to put ourselves in the shoes of those who lived in the first century and to try to understand the JEWISH PROBLEM.

Fact #1--*The Israelites are God's chosen people (Deut. 7:6-9; Romans 11:28).*

Fact #2--*God promised His chosen people that they would enjoy a glorious kingdom under their Messiah (Dan. 7:13-14; Isaiah 2:1-5; 9:6-7; 11:1-9; Jer. 23:5-8; 31:31-37; 33:14-16; Luke 1:32-33).*

Fact #3--*The nation Israel (at least the great majority in the nation) rejected their Messiah when He came to earth (John 1:11; Matthew 12:22-24; Matthew 21:33-46; 27:22, 23, 25; John 19:15; Acts 22:22; 1 Th.2:14-15).*

Fact #4--*When the church first began it was made up entirely of Jewish believers (Acts chapter 2, the Day of Pentecost). But gradually this changed. As the years went by more and more Gentiles entered the church and less and less Jews (we see this as we travel through the book of Acts and also as we span the years of church history). Today (and this has been true for most of church history) the church is made up almost entirely of Gentile believers. We thank God for Jews who have believed on Christ as Messiah and as Saviour, but their numbers are few. The nation as a whole is blind though, thankfully, there are a few exceptions (see Romans 11:25).*

Are you beginning to see the problem? Facts #1 and #2 seem to be contradicted by Facts #3 and #4. What has happened to Israel's glorious kingdom? What has happened to all of the promises which God has given to the Jews? God's program for the present (the church) involves primarily the Gentiles and not the Jews. Why is this so? Has God cast away His people? Is God all through with the nation Israel? Does the nation have any future in God's program at all?

*Put yourself in the shoes of a first century Jew. The gospel that Paul preached was either true or false. Jesus Christ, whom Paul preached, was either the true Messiah or He was not. Thus, we have two alternatives: 1) The gospel that Paul preached is not true, and hence Jesus Christ is not the true Messiah and we must still await the coming of the true Messiah. If this is so, then the reason the Kingdom has not yet come is because the true Messiah has not yet come. 2) The gospel Paul preached is true and hence Jesus Christ is indeed the true Messiah. If this is so, then why is there no kingdom? Why do the Jewish people continue to suffer in this world? Why aren't the Old Testament kingdom promises being fulfilled? Has God cast away His people? **GOD HAS GIVEN TO US ROMANS CHAPTERS 9-11 TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS.**"*

Before we step into this chapter there is yet something else which we need to know. In Romans 1-8 we have seen the GRACE of God over and over again. Now as we come to Romans 9-11, we are going to be introduced to MERCY. MERCY is not mentioned in Romans 1-8 but here in Romans 9-11 it is spoken of 10 times.

I. Paul's Sorrow

Notice Romans 9:1

This verse is here to prepare us for what Paul about to say. He is about to say something that many would say was unbelievable. So here in this verse Paul he calls three witnesses to testify that what he is going to say is true. Paul is thinking back to the Old Testament where God required that two or three witnesses were needed to confirm a testimony. Paul did the same thing in Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 13:1

This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.

Getting back to Romans 9:1 Paul is calling on the testimony of Jesus Christ, his conscience, and the Holy Spirit. These three testify that what Paul is about to say is true.

Notice Romans 9:2

Paul had a deep heavy sorrow that was continual for his fellow Israelites. His burden was so great that it was always at the front of Paul's mind. This was something which Paul could not forget about. His heart was burdened for the Israelites for he longed to see them saved. This reminds me of another person who had a burden for his fellow Jews.

Nehemiah 1:1-4

The words of Nehemiah the son of Hachaliah. And it came to pass in the month Chisleu, in the twentieth year, as I was in Shushan the palace,

² *That Hanani, one of my brethren, came, he and certain men of Judah; and I asked them concerning the Jews that had escaped, which were left of the captivity, and concerning Jerusalem.*

³ *And they said unto me, The remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire.*

⁴ *And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven,*

Nehemiah was greatly impacted by the news of his brethren who had returned from the captivity. Nehemiah's heart was so burdened that he longed to leave the palace and go to Jerusalem to lead the building of the wall. In this Nehemiah became a picture of Jesus Christ who left the riches of heaven to come to a world full of sin to a people who were lost in their sin.

Paul also longed to sacrifice for his fellow Israelites and his desired sacrifice was the ultimate.

Notice Romans 9:3

Paul was willing to be separated from Christ/die spiritually, to see the people of Israel come to Jesus Christ for salvation. Paul was willing to be sentenced to hell so they could be saved. He was willing to give up his salvation to see them saved. This tells of his love for his fellow Israelites. To be willing to give up salvation so that someone else could be saved is an amazing love. This was impossible for Paul to do because there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Paul however was willing to go that far to see them saved.

Paul's desire by the way, was exactly what Jesus Christ did for all of us. He willingly stepped out of heaven, came to this earth, He was crucified and on the cross, and He experienced hell so that we could be saved.

Now let us stop here for a moment and consider what Paul's desire tells us about him.

Paul had the heart of Jesus Christ within him and it controlled him. Paul was practicing what he taught.

Philippians 2:5-8

⁵ *Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:*

⁶ *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

⁷ *But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:*

⁸ *And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*

Moses had the same love for Israel.

Exodus 32:1-4,7-10, 31-32

And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

² *And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.*

³ *And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.*

⁴ *And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

⁷ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:*

⁸ *They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.*

⁹ *And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:*

¹⁰ *Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation.*

³¹ *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold.*

³² *Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

Where does this kind of sacrificial love come from?

1 Thessalonians 4:9-10

⁹ *But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.*

¹⁰ *And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;*

This love is taught to us by God.

Conclusion:

This love is something that is missing within the lives of many believers today. The reason is because many have become focused upon themselves or on the world. When we are walking in fellowship with Jesus Christ, we too will have a burden for the lost. I will leave you with what Paul wrote to the Corinthians.

2 Corinthians 4:8-12

⁸ *We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;*

⁹ *Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*

¹⁰ *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body.*

¹¹ *For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

¹² *So then death worketh in us, but life in you.*