

"God's Relationship with Israel"

Romans 9-11

Part 2

Introduction: As we return to our study of Romans, we are again returning to chapters 9-11 in which Paul teaches us about the Nation of Israel and the plan of God. These three chapters seem to be out of place at first reading. We have just come out of Romans 8 where we were able to see the amazing security of the believer. And then Paul seems to go abruptly into these three chapters in which he focuses upon the Nation of Israel. As we talked about however there is a very good reason for this. The Jews would have seen the first 8 chapters of Romans as a major put down.

Romans 1:1-5

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

⁴ And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

The word "nations" here refers to the Gentile nations. So, many would read this and ask the questions, "What about the Jews?" "Is God finished with the Jews?" Paul will answer these questions in chapters 9-11.

Romans 11:1a

I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid....

Notice what Paul wrote in chapter 2 concerning the Religious Sinner:

Romans 2:17-19, 24-27

¹⁷ Behold, thou art called a Jew, and retest in the law, and makest thy boast of God,

¹⁸ And knowest his will, and approvest the things that are more excellent, being instructed out of the law;

19 And art confident that thou thyself art a guide of the blind, a light of them which are in darkness,

24 For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision.

26 Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision?

27 And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?

Here in these verses Paul addresses the Jews who were focused upon "religion" and by that, I mean they were focused upon what was on the outside. They prided themselves in their circumcision of the flesh and the fact that they possessed the law. But that was all exterior and salvation was that which took place in the heart.

These statements would have caused many to say that Paul was teaching that God's promises to the Jews were forgotten. Paul will also address this in the chapters before us.

Romans 11:29

29 For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

In these verses we can begin to see why these three chapters of Romans are here. Now as Paul starts into chapter 9, he begins by revealing his heart concerning how he feels about his fellow Israelites.

I. Israel's past relationship with God

Romans 9

A. Paul's Sorrow

Notice Romans 9:1-3

Here we see how burdened Paul was for the people of Israel. If it would be possible Paul would have given up his salvation so as to see them saved. These three verses then raise a question, "Why are these verses here?" Paul could have taught his readers concerning God's relationship with Israel without the information in these first three verses so, why are they here? The Jews had come to see Paul as an enemy because he had turned to the Gentiles. As he preached the Gospel they did all they could to stir up persecution against him. So, here in these verses he lets them know that he is not their enemy, but he desires to see them saved and if it were possible, he would be willing to make the greatest

sacrifice of all for them. Therefore, these verses are here to make a way for Paul's words to get into the heart of the Jewish people.

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

We have already considered two of these.

- 1. To the Israelites pertain the adoption.**
- 2. To the Israelites pertain the glory.**

Now we have come to the third privilege pertaining to Israel.

- 3. To the Israelites pertain the Covenants.**

This is where we stopped last week. There are 5 Covenants which we need to consider which pertained to Israel that have significant meaning.

- A. THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:7-21; 17:1-14)**
- B. THE MOSAIC COVENANT (Exodus 19:5-8)**
- C. THE LAND COVENANT (Deuteronomy 29-30)**
- D. THE DAVIDIC COVENANT (2 Samuel 7:5-19)**
- E. THE NEW COVENANT (Jeremiah 31:31-36)**

Let us now consider the first covenant.

A. The Abrahamic Covenant

The Abrahamic Covenant is what I will call the FOUNDATIONAL COVENANT. The Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant and the New Covenant will all be extensions of the Abrahamic Covenant. Notice the words of **Pentecost** on the Abrahamic Covenant:

"This covenant becomes the seed from which are brought forth the later covenants made with Israel. The essential areas of the Abrahamic Covenant, the land, the seed, and the blessing, are enlarged in the subsequent covenants made with Israel."

Let us notice the Abrahamic Covenant then we shall see the promises of this covenant.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

² *And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:*

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

This is the first mention of the covenant. It is spoken of in Genesis 12, 13, 15, 17, 22.

➤ **The Promises of the Covenant.**

Peters points out 13 promises given in the Abrahamic Covenant.

1. **Abraham's name shall be great.** - *"and make thy name great;"*
2. **A great nation would come from him.** - *"I will make of thee a great nation..."*
3. **He shall be a blessing so great that in him all the families of the earth would be blessed.** - *"in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."*
4. **To Abraham personally and his seed would be given the land.** -

Genesis 13:14-15

¹⁴ *And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:*

¹⁵ *For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever.*

5. **The multitude of Abraham's seed would be like the dust of the earth.**

Genesis 13:16

¹⁶ *And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered.*

6. **Whosoever blessed Abraham would be blessed and whosoever cursed him would be cursed.**

Genesis 12:3a

³ *And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee....*

7. **He should be the father of many nations.**

Genesis 17:3-5

³ *And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying,*

⁴ As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations.

⁵ Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.

8. Kings should proceed from Abraham.

Genesis 17:6

⁶ And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.

9. This Covenant would an EVERLASTING COVENANT.

Genesis 17:7

⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.

10. The land of Canaan would be an everlasting possession.

Genesis 17: 8

⁸ And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

11. God will be a God to Abraham and his seed.

Genesis 17:8

⁸ And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.

12. Abraham's seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.

Genesis 22:17

¹⁷ That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

13. In Abraham's seed all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

Genesis 22:18a

¹⁸ And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;

These are the 13 promises given to Abraham in this covenant.

➤ **The Conditions of the Covenant**

This point is so very important. This covenant which God made with Abraham was UNCONDITIONAL. This means that Abraham did not need to do anything to keep this covenant because the covenant would rest upon God's faithfulness.

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

⁵ And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

⁶ And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

⁷ And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

⁸ And he said, LORD God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?

⁹ And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

¹⁰ And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

¹¹ And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹² And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

¹⁷ And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

¹⁸ In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:

This covenant was ratified by blood and the fulfillment rests upon God's faithfulness. The Abrahamic Covenant is unconditional and everlasting and that means that one day Abraham will be resurrected and he and his seed will be given the land which God promised to him.

Conclusion:

¹³ For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he sware by himself,

¹⁴ Saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee.

¹⁵ And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise.

¹⁶ For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife.

¹⁷ Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath:

¹⁸ That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:

The two immutable things are, God's oath and His promise. These two things are impossible to change. When God gives His Word we can be sure that what He promises will come to pass.