

"God's Relationship with Israel"**Romans 9-11****Part 10**

Introduction: Because of what is going on in the world I was going to step away from Romans and look at some verses of comfort but as I looked at the text before us, I started to see great encouragement for us in these verses. Therefore, we shall continue our study in Romans, and I am sure God will speak to our hearts through what we are going to see.

We are currently looking at Romans 9 where Paul is laying the foundation to help us to see that God has not cast Israel away and God's Word, namely the covenants and the promises, have not fallen to the ground powerless. God had given 8 privileges to Israel as Paul mentioned. They had the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the Law, the service, the promises, the fathers, and from whom Christ came. They had all of this but when their Messiah came, they rejected Him, and they crucified Him. Many from the nation died in their sins and went to hell so to many it looks like God's promises run aground and it looks like God cast them away.

Paul however tells us that this is not so. In his explanation he is pointing to the sovereignty of God.

I. The Election of Isaac**Notice Romans 9:6-9**

The true Jew had to have 4 fathers. He had to have Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and God as his Father. Now in these verses Paul is showing us that God in His sovereignty chose that the descendants Isaac would be the ones through whom the covenants and the promises would be fulfilled.

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.

Isaac was the child of promise. His conception and birth came about by the power of God working in the bodies of Abraham and Sarah. Ishmael was a child of the flesh. He was the result of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar working in the flesh to bring about the promise of God.

Genesis 16:1-4, 11

Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

² *And **Sarai said unto Abram**, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.*

³ *And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.*

⁴ *And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.*

¹¹ *And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child and shalt bear a son, and **shalt call his name Ishmael**: because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.*

God would not accept Ishmael because he was the result of the work of the flesh. This is a reminder to all of us that God will not accept our service when it is in the power of the flesh. He will only accept what is accomplished in His power working in and through us.

Now as we continue, we shall see in greater detail the sovereignty of God when establishing the nation of Israel.

II. The Election of Jacob

Notice Romans 9:10

Here in this verse Paul points to the conception of Jacob and Esau. Abraham's two sons were by two different women but here it is different. We are told here that Rebecca "conceived by one". This is not referring to one man although that is true. But there is more here. Why would Paul have to tell us that Rebecca conceived by one man? That would be obvious because every conception is by ONE MAN. Ishmael and Isaac were both conceived by one man, Abraham. So, what is Paul saying here? He is saying that Jacob and Esau were conceived by ONE SEXUAL ACT. The idea here is that Jacob and Esau were twins. These two sons are different than the previous. Ishmael and Isaac had different

mothers, but Jacob and Esau had the same mother. Paul is going to use this to demonstrate the sovereignty of God.

The sovereignty of God is a subject that upsets many people. In the Bible, there is a tension between the sovereignty of God and the free will of man. Both are clearly seen in the Scriptures, but many people want to ignore the sovereignty of God or they choose to ignore the free will of man. But to do this one way or the other causes major problems. Both are clearly seen.

Notice Romans 9:11

Here is a verse that is set aside by so many people. We are going to break this verse down so that we can understand what is being taught here and as we do, I want you to keep in mind that Paul is talking about the sovereignty of God in calling the nation of Israel. The context here is not individual salvation.

1. Jacob was chosen before the boys were ever born.
2. Jacob was chosen before either one had done any good or evil.
3. Jacob was not chosen because of works.
4. Jacob was chosen only because of the sovereignty of God and because He had a purpose.

Now this verse eliminates the teaching that God chose Jacob because He looked ahead to see the good, he would do, and He was able to see the evil that Esau would do. This verse is very clear that the choice of God was not based upon works.

Now let me point out something else in the midst of this. Those who teach that God chose Jacob because of the good he would do, and He rejected Esau because of the evil he would do, need to understand that Jacob was far from perfect. He too was a sinner and he was a deceiver. Remember how he deceived his own father to get the blessing? The point we need to accept is that God chose Jacob out of His own sovereignty. He chose that through his descendants the covenants and the promises would be fulfilled. God did this because He had a purpose according to election and there would be nothing that would stop the purpose of God.

Application:

Now let me share with you an encouragement for those of us who make up the body of Jesus Christ today.

- a. **God is sovereign over ALL that takes place in our world today.**

What we are seeing in our world today with the coronavirus is under the complete control of God.

Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus saith the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

² I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

³ And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the LORD, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

⁴ For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

⁷ I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil [calamity]: I the LORD do all these things.

Notice the words of several unknown writers:

*"Simply put, Isaiah knows, Cyrus would know and declare to the whole world, **and we should know today, that God is in control.** Since this prophecy was given long before God's people went into the captivity Isaiah now announces deliverance from it, they could be comforted through the captivity by knowing God is in control."*

"Isaiah's point is that there are not two gods or forces in heaven, one good and one bad, as in a dualistic "yin and yang" sense. "Cyrus was a Persian, and Persian had a dualistic concept of God and the world. Their good god they called Ahura-mazda and the evil god Angra-mainya. The former had created the light, the second the darkness.

But God has no opposite. Satan is not and has never been God's opposite. There is one God. He is not the author of evil; evil is never "original," but always a perversion of an existing good. Yet God is the allower of evil, and He uses it to accomplish His eternal purpose of bringing together all things in Jesus. If God could further His eternal purpose by allowing

His Son to die a wicked, unjust death on a cross, then He knows how to use what He allows for His eternal purpose."

What we are going through is to accomplish the purpose of God somehow and some way.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

b. God had a purpose for Israel so He would not cast her away.

What a reminder to all of us in the midst of what is happening today. God will not abandon us. As the church we are His elect just as Israel. He has promised that He will never leave us nor forsake us.

Hebrews 13:5-6

⁵ Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

⁶ So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

We may pass through some very difficult trials, but we shall never be alone. This is seen in the lives of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

Daniel 3:16-25

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

¹⁷ If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king.

¹⁸ But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

¹⁹ Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

²⁰ And he commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their hosen, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

²² Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flames of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

²⁴ Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

Notice Romans 9:11 again.

I want to draw your attention to the word "purpose". Let me show you the meaning.

"a setting forth of a thing, placing of it in view, the shewbread"

The word has the idea of putting something on display. So here in this verse the idea is that God chose the nation of Israel to be "His display". In other words, Israel was chosen to represent God to the world. Now let me show you something else.

Romans 8:28

²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The word "purpose" here is the very same word. So, this goes back to what I have said before. We are like Israel in that we are the means by which our Lord has chosen to manifest Himself to the world around us. We are on display.