

**Series "How Great A Salvation"**  
**"Has God Failed?"**  
**Romans 9:1-13**  
**Study-25**

Note where Paul left off in **Romans 8:38-39** – What about Israel? God made promises, has God revoked His promises to Israel?

**Romans 9** – Paul defends the character of God by showing that Israel's rejection actually magnifies the character of God.

**Romans 9-11** – The completion of the doctrine of Justification by faith.

**Romans 9** – Israel's Past Election – God's Sovereignty

**Romans 10** – Israel's Present Rejection – Man's Responsibility

**Romans 11** – Israel's Future Reception – God Intervenes

**Romans 9:1-13 – God's Faithfulness; Romans 9:14-33 – God's Choice Of Israel.**

**Deuteronomy 29:29; Isaiah 55:8-9**

**Thought Of Our Passage:** "Responsibility And Sovereignty Work Together To Bring Salvation Through The Gospel."

**1. Verses 1-5 – Sorrow For The Lost**

**2. Verses 6-13 – The Choice Of God**

**1. Verses 1-5 – Sorrow For The Lost:**

Romans 9:1 – "I am telling the truth in Christ," – Context: Paul had argued in Romans 8 that the believer is secure in Jesus Christ and that God's election would stand, Romans 8:38-39.

Paul anticipates persons reading Romans that might ask, "What about the Jews? They were chosen by God, God made promises, and yet now you tell us they are set aside, and God is building His church. Did God fail to keep His promises to Israel?"

Verse 1 – The Reality Of Paul's Grief: "I am telling the truth in Christ I am not lying," – The believer in Christ is a truth teller – Galatians 4:16; John 17:17; John 14:6 – The Truth.

"my conscience testifies with me" – Conscience must be purified by God's blood.

"in the Holy Spirit," – Holy Spirit working with the Conscience are the two great prosecutors of the souls. A conscience under the Holy Spirit can be trusted.

Verse 2 – The Intensity Of Paul's Grief: Romans 9:2 – "great sorrow" – "great heaviness;" peak of joy in Romans 8, to the valley of sorrow in Romans 9.

"and unceasing grief in my heart." – "consuming pain, or grief of the heart"

Verse 3 – Paul's Sorrow Was Sacrificial: Romans 9:3.

Romans 8 Believers – Becomes Romans 9 Believers; Debtors, not Creditors.

"For I could wish" – "is in my heart;" wish but not possible.

"accursed" – equivalent of the Hebrew "under the ban and marked for destruction;" the spoils Jericho, a curse, to be cut off from Christ forever, eternal perdition, cast into Hell.

"my kinsman according to the flesh" – The Gospel was first in priority given to the Jews, Romans 1:16.

Moses intercedes for Israel; N.L.T. Exodus 32:30-33.

Verses 4-5 – Jewish Privileges: Romans 9:4 – "who are Israelites," – this term speaks of "the members of God's covenant, governed by God;" "The Oracles of God," Romans 3:1-2.

### **Paul Cites 8 Privileges Exclusively Given To The Jews:**

- 1) "to whom belongs the adoption as sons" – God had a special relationship with the Jews. God would be a Father to them, Exodus 4:22; Hosea 1:10.
- 2) "and the glory" – The glory of God's presence, God's visible manifestation, cloud or pillar, Exodus 40:34; 1 Kings 8:10-11.
- 3) "and the covenants" – special contracts that God made exclusively with God's people the Jews, Genesis 15:8; Exodus 24:8; Ephesians 2:12.
- 4) "and the giving of the Law" – Privilege to have God's will and standards, Exodus 20:1.

- 5) "and the temple service" – All the sacrifices were pictures of Jesus Christ and His redemptive work of the cross. Leviticus – The prescribed offerings.
- 6) "and the promises," – Unique to Israel only. Associated with the covenants, the blessings; The 1000-year reign in the millennium, Acts 13:32-34.

Romans 9:5.

- 7) "whose are the fathers," – These were the patriarchs of Israel: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, 12 sons, David.
- 8) "and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh," – It was through the Jewish nation that the Messiah came, Romans 1:3.

"who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen." – Much more than a man, He is God, and being God, He is over all, Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:8.

## **2. Verses 6-13 – The Choice Of God:**

Romans 9:6 – "word of God has failed." – literally, "a ship going off course, to be in vain, lose validity. It is not as though the word of God (the promise) has failed."

"For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;" – Not all physical decedents were recipients of the promise!

Paul has already taught on this, Romans 2:28-29.

Obligation – Individual Response To A National Opportunity.

### **Verses 6-13 – Paul Cites 2 Examples – Promise To Abraham's Descendants:**

#### **1. Verses 7-9 – Isaac & Ishmael**

#### **2. Verses 10-13 – Jacob & Esau**

#### **1. Verses 7-9 – Isaac & Ishmael:** Romans 9:7

Salvation Is Never Based On Natural Advantage: "nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants,"

All Jews are members of God's elect people, Romans 11:28; not all are members of the Israel, within Israel of the election of grace,

Romans 11:5-6; Those that are willing, obedient, grateful witnesses to the grace and truth, are.

"but: 'THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.'" – This is taken from Genesis 21:12.

Abraham pleaded to God for Ishmael, Genesis 17:18.

"but: 'THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED.'" – God chose Isaac, though they were both fathered by Abraham.

God Sets The Conditions For The Blessings: God had made a promise to Abraham, but the conditions were set by God. God chose Isaac.

Romans 9:8

Ishmael Was Of Natural Birth: "That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God," – This speaks of "natural children."

Ishmael was man's attempt to Get God to do things our way; Honor our ideas.

God's choosing of Isaac over Ishmael to fulfill God's special purpose does not mean that Ishmael was excluded from God's mercy – Genesis 16:10-14; 17:20; 21:13, 17-21.

Salvation Is Always Based Upon A Divine Promise: It was Isaac that would continue the seed. Isaac's birth was miraculous, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants, Romans 4:11; Galatians 4:22-31.

Romans 9:9; Genesis 18:10-12

Isaac, child of promise through resurrection power! Ishmael, child of flesh, man.

## **2. Verses 10-13 – Jacob & Esau:** Romans 9:10

Romans 9:11 – "had not done anything good or bad," – Not by works!

"so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand," – the term "choice" or "election" – "the act of choosing or of picking out."

The sovereign choice of God does not ignore man's freewill, Ephesians 1:4-13.

Salvation Is Not Based Upon If We Are Good Or Bad: "not because of works but because of Him who calls,"

Question – Is God Allowed To Make A Choice? God has: Choice – election, which is God's choosing.

Romans 9:12 – "it was said to her, 'THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER.'" – Genesis 25:23 – God went against the custom of first-born. It was God's choice.

Isaac did all that he could to make the blessing go to Esau – Genesis 27:1-4, 30-33.

Romans 9:13 – "Just as it is written, 'JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED.'"

This is quoted from Malachi 1:2-3.

Edom became Israel's worst neighbor (Neighbors From Hell). God's great wisdom shines through! Romans 9:11

"JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED." – nothing to do with God's emotional love and hatred but the choice of one over the other, Matthew 6:24; Luke 14:26.

### **Application:**

1. Romans 8, Secured Believers – Becomes Romans 9, Believers That Have A Great Love For The Lost; Becoming Debtors Not Creditors.
2. Salvation Is Never Based On Natural Advantage Or If We Are Good Or Bad. Salvation Is Always Based Upon A Divine Promise.
3. Isaac Was A Result Of A Miracle. Ishmael Was The Result Of Natural Birth. Ishmael Was Man's Attempt To Get God To Do Things Our Way; To Honor Our Ideas.