

ROMANS CHAPTER 9

Chapters 9-11 deal with God's present dealing with Israel.

The situation that exists:

1. God has committed Himself to bless the nation of Israel. Jer 31:1-14, 31-40; Deut 4:26-38
2. At the present time, she has been "set aside" Rom 11:11-28 (stumble, their transgression, their rejection, broken off, did not spare, unbelief, hardened enemies who are beloved v. 28.) She has been "left desolate". Lk 13:34-35
3. Where is the divine faithfulness? Romans chapters 9-11 reveals to us God's plan. A plan that has stood from all eternity. God has a place for both the nation of Israel and the church, the Body of Christ. In that plan, God has not changed His mind on anything. He has been at work from the beginning and He has been faithful from that same beginning.

vs. 1-5 Paul's heart and Paul's people

vs. 1-3 Paul's heart

Paul loved his people with the same love that Moses loved them.

Ex. 32:32-35

God loved these people more than both these men combined!

Heb. 12:5-11 (Ex. 32:35) God has been dealing with them for over 3,500 years. He is faithful. Jer.31:35-37

NOTE: Paul, like God, loves those who do not love him. Acts 21:27-31

vs. 4-5 Paul's people – Israelites – a people set apart from all the other nations of the earth, a people who have been blessed with 8 specific blessings:

1. The Divine national adoption - Ex. 4:22 "Israel is My Son, My firstborn"; Deut. 7:6; Isa. 66:22; Amos 3:2
2. The Glory - Ex. 25:8, 21-22; 2Chron. 5:11-14 (Ezekiel, chs.10-11) The wickedness of the nation resulted in the glory departing from their presence. The glory returned (Read at the triumphal entry, Matt. 21:1-11, and was rejected again by the nation. Matt. 27:20-26. He will return again at His second coming and the nation will "look on Him whom they pierced" and they will believe. Rom. 11:25-29; Zech. 14:1-6

3. The covenants -
 - a. The Abrahamic Gen. 12:1-3; 15:8-21
 - b. The Mosaic Ex. 19:5,8; Deut. 28:1-29:1
 - c. The Palestinian Deut. 30:1-10
 - d. The Davidic 2 Sam. 7:10-16
 - e. The New Jer. 31-40 (We share in the blessings of both the Abrahamic and the New Covenant. Gen. 12:3; 2 Cor. 11:25. We share in it because we have been grafted into the rich root of the olive tree. Rom. 11:17-18)
4. The giving of the Law - Deut. 4:10-14; Heb 12:18-22; Rom. 2:12, 17-18ff; Ezek. 31:12-18
5. The temple service - Heb. 9:1-10; Eph. 2:13-18
6. The promises - Israel, as a nation, has received thousands of them. From the time of Pentecost to the rapture, God has been dealing with individuals rather than a nation. There are no “earthly” promises to the church because we are a heavenly people!
Rom. 15:8; Heb. 11:13

NOTE: There are heavenly promises which can be summarized as that which will be given to those as “heirs of the world”.
Rom. 4:13; 2Cor. 1:20; Gal. 3:16 (ours because we are in Christ); Heb. 6:12.

7. Whose are the Fathers – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (ours only by adoption and grafting.
8. and from whom is the Christ, according to the flesh. Rom. 1:3; who was born a descendant of David according to the flesh Matt. 1:1 (21:9); John 1:1-3, 14; Heb. 2:14-17

Who is over all – 1 Cor. 15:27-28; Col. 1:15-17

God – Isa. 9:6; John 1:1, 14, 5:17-18, 10:33, 14:9, 19:7

Blessed forever – Phil. 2:9-11

Amen – YES, affirmation

- vs. 6 Question – Has the word of God failed?
 Abraham – Heb. 11:8-10, 17-19
 Isaac – Heb. 11:20
 Jacob – Heb. 11:21
 Joseph – Heb. 11:22
 David – 2 Sam. 7:10-17
 Isaiah – Isa. 66:22

ETC.

Answer: they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel...nor because they are Abraham's offspring!

Verses 7 thru 13 – Abraham's descendents are the result of God's choice (election) and nothing else.

NOTE: The true descendents of Abraham are: Gal.3:7; Rom. 4:11-12

vs. 7 Isaac was chosen over Ishmael. Gen.17:18-19; 21:9-12. Both fathered by Abraham!

vs. 8-9 Divine commentary on verse 7: It is not...but the children of the promise are. The will of God precedes the birth; it is not the result of it! Eph. 1:4-5, 9, 11.
God promised Isaac to Abraham and kept His promise by a miracle. Gen. 18:10. When Isaac was born, he was the "child of promise."

vs.10 Next generation: Isaac and Rebekah have twins – Esau and Jacob. Same father, mother, and birth – no human difference – yet God's plan was already set.

The promise passed through Jacob, and Esau was set aside.

vs. 11-13 Divine commentary on verse 10.

vs.11 God's choice was the result of God's purpose. His choice was not based on human merit, it was based on His eternal purpose. Those who enter into the plan of God were chosen for that position from all eternity. Rom. 11:29; John 6:37, 44, 65

vs. 12 (prior to their birth, prior to their having done any works at all) it was said to her. Gen. 25:23

vs.13 It was written. Mal. 1:2-3

NOTE: Paul has already demonstrated that righteousness is not of works but of divine grace – uncaused by us. He now tells us that divine election is likewise not of human works.

- vs. 14 If we have understood what Paul has just said, verse 14 would be our natural response: “It’s not fair!” Perish the thought! Not true!
- vs. 15 For Paul’s proof text is taken from Exodus 32-34. There is none good, not even one! There is no one “qualified” to be blessed by God. He is free to choose whom He wants. He is under no obligation to the ones He has chosen and He has not wronged the ones He has passed by. This truth will be further elaborated in the verses following.
- vs. 16 So then – Man thinks he can “will” or “decide” and then “run” and God’s job is to follow His creature’s choice! Not so!! God has mercy on unworthy sinners. It is God who “wills” or “decides” and then man “runs” as God has determined he will.
- vs. 17 Pharaoh, an unsaved, non-child-of-promise human, had his life planned with the same detail that the children of promise had. People try to argue that Pharaoh hardened his heart first and therefore God was simply responding. Ex. 7:8-14 They ignore “as the Lord said” in vs.13. Pharaoh hardened his heart because this was the place God had chosen for him in His eternal plan.
- Ex. 4:21, 7:2-5 (God’s plan worked. 1 Sam. 4:7-8. We are still talking about it today 3,500 years later.)
- Pharaoh asked the question “Who is the Lord that I should obey his voice?” He now knows the answer!
- vs. 18 So then Divine commentary He has...on whom He desires.
- vs. 19 Paul declares the second question that comes to mind for the one who understands what is being said. In short – If I am not one of God’s elect, an object of His mercy, then I cannot do right, and God should not blame me. (Acts 17:30 places the responsibility on man. The fact that the lost are non-elect is never given as the basis for their eternal end. Their own works are the basis. Rev. 20:11-15).
- vs. 20 Verse 19 is not the proper response to God, verses 20-21 are! Verse 19 forgets who is asking whom.
- vs. 21 Asks the right question...

from the same lump – nothing differentiates one vessel from the other. It is the potter and not the clay that determines the outcome. The potter has use for both types of vessels. The potter makes the choice and the clay adds nothing to the choosing process – from the same lump. Who do we think we are to sit in judgment of God?

- vs.22 What if God –
who plans to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known,
endured the vessels who were created for that demonstration
- vs. 23 and He did so in order that –
He might create vessels of mercy that will display the riches of His
glory? Eph. 2:4-7
These same vessels were said to be prepared beforehand for glory.
- vs. 24 Who are these vessels? Even us whom He called from both Israel and
the Gentiles. 1 John 3:1-2
- vs. 25 Quotes from Hosea 2:23 in reference to the Jews of verse 24 – the
believing remnant.
- vs. 26 Quotes from Hosea 1:10 in reference to the Gentiles of verse 24.
- vs. 27 Refers back to Rom 9:6. The original plan of God called for the
remnant to be saved at the present time and God’s plan will be
accomplished. God is faithful to His plan.
- vs. 28 Isa. 10:23 tells us that Rom. 9:22 will come soon enough. All that
God has planned will certainly come to pass!
- vs. 29 The question is not why are some non-elect, but rather, why are any
elect? In the context of the nation of Israel, Rom. 9:6, the same can be
said.
- vs. 30 Gentiles who:
were not seeking God;
did not have any of the benefits that Israel did; Rom. 9:4-5
were deep in sin Rom. 1 and 2.
attained the righteousness, which is by faith. Acts 13:48
The Gentiles that “had been appointed to eternal life”

vs. 31 but Israel (in contract) who:
were pursuing a “law” of righteousness;
were seeking to establish their own righteousness Rom. 10:3
did not arrive at that law.

vs. 32 Why? Because:
rather than faith, they sought it by works;
they stumbled over the stumbling stone;
they stumbled over Jesus Christ.
He was meek and lowly.
He went about doing them good.
He healed them, loved them.
He died for them.

He offended them – all their false claims of self-righteousness.
He offended the leaders by exposing their sin.
He denied them their hope of an earthly kingdom.
He overthrew their “works built on sand”.

They would not believe.
They would not receive.
To this end they were appointed. Rom. 9:22, 11:17-23

Vs. 33 Just as it is written! It will always be “just as it is written!”
Lk 16:17; Matt 5:18
“for so it has been written” Matt 2:5
“It is written” Matt 4:4
“About whom it is written” Matt 11:10
“Just as it is written” Matt 26:24
(The word “written” is found 50 times in the Gospels. Most of the time it is included in a quote from Jesus. As used by Him, if it is written, you can bet your eternity that it’s true. This provided us with a window that allows us to see the authority that Jesus places on the Scriptures.)
He who has been laid in Zion as a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense is Jesus Christ.
He who believes in Jesus Christ will not be disappointed!
It is true that we do not yet fully know and therefore we believe without yet receiving what was promised. Heb 11:13-16,39-40

But the day is coming when we will fully know, as we have been known. 1 Cor 13:12