

## Romans 9 - Israel's Relationship to God

### SUMMARY

- In Romans Chapters 9-11, Paul deals with **Israel's relationship to God**.
  - Israel is God's chosen nation to represent Him in the OT - Deut. 7:6-11; 14:1-2
  - The term "**election**" in Rom. 9:11, 11:5, 11:7, and 11:28 is referring to the nation of Israel, **not to saved individuals** who have received Jesus Christ as Saviour.
  - While there were many thousands of Jews that believed (Acts 21:20), the vast majority of Jews today **follow their leaders** and reject Jesus Christ, just as they did in Acts 4-7, when they rejected the witness of the Apostles and Stephen.
  - In Paul's ministry, while some Jews believed on Jesus Christ, there were **three** significant times when the Jews overwhelmingly rejected Jesus Christ, **causing Paul to turn to the Gentiles for his ministry of the Gospel**: 1) Asia - Acts 13:46; Greece (representing Europe) - Acts 18:6; and Rome (representing all the world) - Acts 28:23-28
  - Ever since then, individual Jews are occasionally saved, but it is the exception, not the rule; therefore the fulfillment of the bride of Christ being composed largely of Gentiles.
  - The church, i.e. the body of Christ HAS NOT TAKEN THE PLACE of Israel in the Church Age (or in any other dispensation for that matter).
  - We are presently in a parenthetical dispensation, and God has **temporarily** set Israel aside until the "fulness of the Gentiles be come in." - Rom. 11:25
  - God is not dealing directly with the Jews as a nation during the Church Age, but is calling individual Jews to salvation by grace through faith, just as individual Gentiles are being called to salvation; hence the need to evangelize the Jews with the Gospel of Jesus Christ right now.
  - Most dispensations have some overlap and God is starting to deal with the Jews as a nation, e.g. Israel was again officially recognized as a nation in 1948 and many Jews are currently being re-gathered back into the Promised Land.
  - God's wrath is presently on the Jews and will continue on and culminate with "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jer. 30:7) and the Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21).
  - Outside of the Devil himself, the greatest enemy the Jews have is God because when the Jews claimed responsibility for crucifying Jesus, God responded accordingly. - Luke 23:13-25; Acts 2:36; Acts 4:10; Matt. 27:24-26
  - Physically, the Jews are under God's care and promises; spiritually the Jews are under God's judgment, for rejecting Jesus Christ as God and their Saviour.
  - A nation is blessed when it blesses Israel; and is cursed when it curses Israel. - Gen. 12:1-3; Num. 24:5-9
- v. 1 - Believers have a Holy Spirit filled conscience with spiritual truth now available to guide and instruct each believer.
- A believer's conscience ought to be clear spiritually. - Acts 24:16
  - A lost person has a defiled conscience through sins and the flesh. - Titus 1:15

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- A renewed godly and spiritual conscience is one result of getting saved, but it still must be continually yielded to in the daily life of the believer.
- v. 2 - A godly conscience helps the believer to see things as God sees them.
- Heaviness and continual sorrow in our hearts for the lost; an ability to hear the screams of those who are now in hell pleading with us to share the gospel with their family members.
  - Believers need a real burden for the lost. - Ps. 126:5-6
- v. 3 - Paul's burden showed a Christ-like love for the Jews - Rom. 10:1
- Paul "could wish" (not **did** wish) to be accursed from Christ for the sake of the Jews, he would have if he could have, but of course this is not possible.
  - Paul showed true love and compassion for his lost kinsmen.
  - Paul being accursed would never anyone, it takes Jesus' blood to cleanse from sin. - Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14; Heb. 9:11-12
  - Paul's legitimate burden for the Jews caused him to contend with God (Acts 22:17-21) and sin against God by going to Jerusalem when he had been appointed the apostle to the Gentiles (Rom. 11:13; 15:16).
  - Even good motives can lead to sin if we are disobedient to God!
  - **Result:** Paul lost 2 years of his ministry in a Roman jail, including much turmoil.
- vv. 4-5 - Israel's great privileges (8 of them) - Rom. 3:1-2
1. **Adoption** (used 5X) - 3 Doctrinal Applications (to 2 Groups)
    - Rom. 9:4 (here) - **Israel** - chosen as a nation by God - Deut. 7:6-11; ;14:1-2
    - Rom. 8:15 (FM) - **Body of Christ** - "Spirit of adoption" - Context v. 16 cf. Gal. 4:5-6; Eph. 1:5
    - Rom. 8:23 - **Body of Christ** "redemption of our body" (at the Rapture)
  2. **Glorification** - pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night - Ex. 13:21-22
  3. **Covenants** - Abraham-Gen. 12, 15; Mosaic-Ex. 19-20; Davidic-2 Sam. 7:12-17; Ps. 89:34-37; Jer. 23:5-6
  4. **Giving of the (Mosaic) law** ("oracles of God") - Rom 3:1-2
  5. **Service of God** - tabernacle, priesthood, and instructions for being a "peculiar people" - Ex. 19:5-6
  6. **Promises** (of the OT) - Personal and national, both positive and negative. - Assign reading - Deut. 28 & 29
  7. **Fathers** - Jewish patriarchs to look to, e.g. David (Acts 2:29-30)
  8. **Christ** - The Jewish Messiah and Saviour came in the flesh through the virgin Mary. **NOTE:** The number "8" in the Bible is the number of new beginnings. Had the Jews accepted Jesus as their Christ and Messiah, they would have immediately received a new beginning **as a nation**. Since they rejected Jesus, they are being judged by God, will go through the time of Jacob's trouble and the great tribulation, and therefore must wait until Second Advent to get a new beginning.

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- In spite of God giving the Jews all these privileges, most Jews reject Jesus Christ.
  - Rejecting these eight privileges work to the detriment of the Jews as a nation because God's judgment falls on any nation which rejects God and salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. - Ps. 9:17
  - The Jews failed in letting these 8 great privileges lead them as a nation to Jesus Christ.
  - The Jews preferred a Roman dictator rather than Jesus Christ. - John 19:15
  - The problem is never with God; the problem is always the sinners' response to God. - John 1:12
  - v. 5 - One of the greatest verses in the Bible on the **Deity of Jesus Christ**. Jesus is not only "**over all**", but is also "**God blessed forever**" AMEN!!. - Phil. 2:9-11 (**not** "praise God forever" or some other perversion from modern translations of the Bible). - Col. 1:15-19; Col. 2:9; 1 Tim. 3:16
- v. 6a - The word of God still has some positive effect on the Jews
- Even though most Jews reject Jesus as Light and the 8 great privileges, there is still a remnant that gets saved.
- vv. 6b-8 - Contrast **physical** Jews with **spiritual** Jews - Rom. 2:28-29
- Physical Jews are mere descendants or offspring of Abraham, e.g. the seed of Ishmael.
  - God rejected Ishmael from the promises given to the Jews through Isaac who is the son of promise. - Gal. 4:30-31 (Gen. 21:1-12)
  - Spiritual Jews are the spiritual seed of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob; saved (believing) Jews constitute the true nation of Israel spiritually.
  - While Isaac was not Abraham's only biological son, Isaac is the "only son" of Abraham that God would recognize. - Gen. 22:1-2 (refer to v. 7)
  - Offspring means **physical seed** (Acts 17:28-29); son(s) of God in the NT means **spiritual seed**. - John 1:12; Rom. 8:14
  - A **physical** bastard (3X in KJV) is a baby born without benefit of a legal marriage.
  - A **spiritual** bastard is a person who makes a spiritual claim to sonship of God without being legally adopted (or born again) into God's family through faith in Jesus Christ. - Heb. 12:5-8
  - Mohammed started a false religion of spiritual bastards when he claimed in the Koran that Abraham, Isaac, and Ishmael were all Muslims and that it was Ishmael (not Isaac) that was offered by Abraham and that Ishmael and Hagar the bondwoman were not cast out at all.
  - John 8:37-49 - A clear contrast of Abraham's physical versus spiritual seed
  - In v. 7, the "seed" also is a prophetic reference to Jesus Christ, who is the **great divider** as to the physical seed versus spiritual seed of Abraham. - Gal. 3:13-16
  - To be born a Jew does not automatically make the person a son of God; neither is a person a believer today because he is physically born into a Christian family.

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- “children of the promise” not only applies to the Jews who are the spiritual seed of Abraham, but to Gentiles who are also spiritual seed of Abraham. - Gal. 3:7-9, 14, 26, 29
- v. 9 - The promise that Sarah shall have a son - Gen. 18:10
- All believers who have trusted Jesus Christ as their Saviour by faith alone are the spiritual seed of Abraham as well as a child of God. HOW GREAT IS THAT?
- vv. 10-13 - Another example of a son that God rejected, Esau. - Gen. 25:19-26
- The twin son of Isaac and Rebekah (Esau, the elder brother of Jacob), was rejected by God. (refer to v. 13)
  - Esau's seed joined with the seed of Ishmael (Gen. 28:9), the sons of Keturah (which were the other rejected sons of Abraham-Gen. 25:1-6), and the seed of Ham (which was the rejected son of Noah-Gen 10:6-20) to form the modern Muslim nations that have no right to the Promised Land that God gave Israel through His everlasting covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
  - God foreknew which son would be the spiritual seed, but of course His foreknowledge didn't cause it.
  - Jacob and Esau represent two nations and was prophetic of what God knew would happen. - Gen. 25:23-28
  - Esau represents the lost, the physical seed, the flesh and carnality.- Mal. 1:2-3; Heb. 12:16-17
  - Jacob represents the spiritual seed and spirit-filled Christian. - Rom. 9:7-8
  - Election in v. 11 has nothing to do with predestination or eternal decrees concerning individual salvation, only that “the elder shall serve the younger”.
  - God chose the spiritual brother Jacob to be the line from which would come Jesus Christ, based on the choices that He knew the two brothers would make.
- v. 14 - God **always** does the right thing! - Ps. 19:9, 67:4, 119:75,142,172, 92:15, 145:17
- There is absolutely no unrighteousness with God, which is why it is always right to trust, obey, and follow after God. - Gen. 18:25; Job 34:10,12; Ps. 75:2, 96:10,13
  - Even when things don't make sense to us as believers, you can trust that God is doing the right thing at all times.
  - Don't get mad at God or question that He always does the right thing.
- v. 15 - Quote of Ex. 33:19 - OT context, when nobody has yet been born again (since Jesus' atonement at Calvary had not yet occurred.)
- The context here DOES NOT APPLY to NT salvation, so we must rightly divide or you come up with the **false Calvinist doctrine** that in eternity past, and by God's sovereign will and good pleasure, God chose to save some people and damn other people to hell. WRONG! - Rom. 11:30-32

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- In the OT, God set up a condition for his mercy => love me and keep my commandments. - Ex. 20:3-6 (as part of the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the 10 commandments)
- Even in the OT, God responds to what man does. A person gets God's wrath if he hates God, but receives God's mercy if he loves God and keeps His commandments.

v. 16 - CONTEXT: How to receive God's mercy. NOT a discussion of individual salvation

- OT Application - A person could not force God to give him mercy by an exercise of his will. To be in right relationship with God, he needed to express his belief and faith in God by loving God and keeping His commandments and continual compliance with the animal sacrifices set up under the dispensation of the Law.
- NT Application - A person *receives* God's instantaneous and complete mercy, forgiveness, righteousness, and eternal salvation *as a free gift* of God's grace by trusting Jesus Christ and His D/B/R by faith alone. - Rom. 4:5, 5:1; Eph. 2:8-9
- A person must come on God's terms or else he will be damned.

v. 17 - God's Purpose: Pharaoh was used by God to show His power and declare His name throughout all the earth. - Quote of Ex. 9:16; Ex. 11:3, 9

- Was Pharaoh just a pawn with no chance to do right before God? Hardly! God merely responded to Pharaoh in accordance with Pharaoh's choices.
- God's foreknowledge is always perfect but God did not cause Pharaoh's bad choices. - Ex. 3:17-19
- The original choice is made when Pharaoh exercises *his own free will*. - Ex. 5:1-2
- Pharaoh hardened his own heart, *and* in Ex. 5:6-18 he made things *even harder* for the Jews.
- God does not harden Pharaoh's heart until AFTER Pharaoh defied God with his own stubborn will and then by the power of Satan. - Ex. 7:3, 10-13
- God gave Pharaoh **TWO** legitimate chances to obey God. - Ex. 5:1 and Ex. 5:3-4
- Only then did God harden Pharaoh's heart and gave Pharaoh what he demanded initially; it was then *too late* for him to repent. NT APPLICATION: 2 Cor. 6:2

v. 18 - God's mercy or hardening **always follows** in response to the free will choices man makes.

- God is longsuffering, merciful, and patient with man. - Ex. 34:6-7
- God gives man **many opportunities** to properly respond to Him.
- Men seeking light will be given more light; men seeking darkness will be given more darkness. - John 3:18-21
- To harden your heart is just like a callousness that makes a person less and less sensitive to the prompting of Holy Spirit. - 1 Tim. 4:1-2
- While there will be those who are easily offended and harden their hearts, it's very important not to be one of them. - Matt. 18:7 cf. Matt. 11:6

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vv. 19-20 - **Context:** God showing His power and declaring His name throughout all the earth -(from v. 17)

- Even though all of mankind is under the curse of sin and death, nobody (v. 20) has the right to question God's mercy or hardening by asking, "why has thou made me thus?"
- All people will eventually reap what they have sown. - Gal. 6:7-8
- There is no unrighteousness with God. (covered already in v. 14)
- Man has the responsibility to respond properly before God. **To be in a right positional relationship with God** in the OT (before Calvary), man needed to express his belief in God by loving God & keeping his commandments; while in the NT (after Calvary), man believes God by trusting Jesus' D/B/R by faith alone.
- Being born a sinner was not a legitimate excuse to not love God or disobey God (OT), nor is it a legitimate excuse for rejecting Jesus Christ today in the Church Age of grace (NT).
- There are no eternal decrees, election, or damnation on individuals anywhere in this passage.
- God has given light (scriptures, nature, and conscience) to every man. - John 1:9; Rom. 1:18-20, 12:3; Titus 2:11

v. 21 - Two kinds of vessels, honour and dishonour.

- Again, the context is **not** about individual soul salvation, but Israel's relationship to God.
- It was God's sovereign will to choose Israel to represent Him as his chosen people. - Deut. 7:6, 14:2
- God can change a vessel He is forming and make it "**another vessel**".-Jer. 18:1-10
- Though God (who is the Potter) has **perfect** foreknowledge, the Potter never pre-determines or predestinates the type of vessel we turn out to be...that is each person's freewill choice.
- What determined how God is dealing with the Jews today is based completely on their rejection of Jesus Christ.
- What determines whether a believer is a vessel unto **honour** or unto **dishonour** is based on our obedience (or lack thereof) to God and our response to being tempted to sin. - Jer. 19:1-13
- NT practical application: A believer can **change his own status**, (not the Potter), therefore the context **cannot be positional**. - 2 Tim. 2:19-21; 2 Cor. 7:1
- **How?** Col. 3:1-4

vv. 22-24 - "What if", so what if? - We need to let God be God!

- Again, from v. 17, the context is **not** about individual soul salvation, but about God making His power known and so His name could be declared throughout all the earth.

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- A Calvinist uses supposition rather than a doctrinal statement to suppose in v. 22 that God predestinates some people to go to Hell and in v. 23 to suppose that God has predestinated some to go to Heaven. BAD THEOLOGY!
- Every single individual who has ever been born on this earth since the Fall of Adam was created in the image of Adam and was born a vessel unto dishonour. - Gen. 5:1-3; John 3:18; 36; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 3:10-12, 23
- In v. 22, God is longsuffering. - Ps. 86:15
- Why does God put up with vessels of dishonour as long as He does? - Ezek. 33:11; 2 Pet. 3:9; Rev. 22:17
- God withholds His wrath **until after** a person makes his choice(s) about God. - Rom. 2:5-6
- NT application: vv. 23-24 - Whether Jew or Gentile, a saved person today is only a vessel of God's mercy and honour and able to enjoy the glory of God to the extent he is obedient to God and gets victory over sin. *This means a believer may be a vessel unto dishonour through rebellion and disobedience.*

vv. 25-26 - Quote of Hosea 2:23 and Hosea 1:10, respectively

- Primary doctrinal application is to the house of Israel.
- **PRACTICAL APPLICATION:** Believers are positionally declared righteous when in fact we have no righteousness of our own.
- In Hosea 1:2, Israel is called the wife and children of "whoredoms", and a land that had "committed great whoredom, departing from the Lord".
- As a result the Lord rejected the Northern Kingdom as his people in Hos. 1:9 but immediately predicts their restoration in Hos. 1:10-11
- Doctrinally, these verses are referring to the remnant of Jews that will be saved out of the Great Tribulation at the Second Advent and will go into the Millennium.
- Practically (v. 26) "children of the living God" - refers to the small remnant of Jews saved during the Church Age.
- God's present method of showing mercy in the Church Age is for all lost people (Jew or Gentile) to repent (have a change of mind/heart) from their failure to believe on Jesus Christ and receive Him as their personal Saviour by faith alone.

vv. 27-28 - Quote of Isaiah 10:22-23 (Context: Israel)

- While there are many physical seed (offspring) of Israel, only a remnant of spiritual seed will be saved.
- There is a true spiritual remnant of Israel even in the Church Age. - John 1:11-12
- In v. 28, the "short work" is a reference to the time of Jacob's trouble.
- Cross-reference is to the days of the Great Tribulation being "shortened" in Matt. 24:22 and Mark 13:20, or else no flesh should be saved.
- **Practical Application:** People need to get saved immediately. - 2 Cor. 6:2; James 4:14; Job 14:1-2

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v. 29 - Quote of Isaiah 1:9

- "Lord of Sabaoth" (here and in James 5:4) is defined as "LORD of hosts" in the OT (multitude in Luke 2:13)
- Without the "seed" or spiritual remnant, destruction would have been certain, just as destruction was certain in Sodom when 10 righteous men could not be found in Gen. 18:20-33.
- This is referring to a Jewish spiritual remnant that will be saved.

vv. 30-31 - Contrast of the salvation of the Gentiles with that of the Jews

- Once the Gentiles got the gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them, many believed when they understood that salvation is by **faith in Jesus Christ alone**.
- The Gentiles knew they had to receive by faith the imputed righteousness of Jesus Christ and not trust in their own righteousness.
- But Israel was still attempting to obtain favor with God by self-righteousness and vain attempts at keeping the Law, so they failed miserably and still do today. - Rom. 10:3-4

v. 32a - Why couldn't the Jews attain to God's required righteousness?

- Because they attempt it by works of the Law rather than by faith in Jesus Christ.

vv. 32b-33 - The Jews (nationally) stumble over Jesus Christ and miss Him and salvation. - Rom. 10:1-4 cf. v. 31

- Jesus Christ identifies Himself as the "rock of offence". - Matt. 21:42 (Quote of Ps. 118:22)
- "the LORD of hosts" is the "rock of offence". - Isaiah 8:13-14
- Notice in Isaiah 8:14, for the unbelieving nation of Israel, Jesus is "**a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence**", but for believers Jesus is "**a sanctuary**". - 1 Cor. 1:18-24
- "whosoever believeth on him **shall** not be ashamed" - While we should not be ashamed to witness to others about Jesus Christ right now, this is prophetically referring to a time of future judgment. - Rom. 1:16; 1 John 2:28
- When the lost are cast into the Lake of Fire, believers at that time will not be ashamed or embarrassed of having trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour.
- In 1 Peter 2:6, it says that believers "shall not be **confounded**" meaning believers should not be **put to shame or confused** about salvation. The **ONLY WAY** to have assurance of salvation is to trust Jesus alone and His righteousness, otherwise there **IS NO** assurance.