

Prayer:

Slide # 1
Romans

Theme: The Righteousness of God – The Gospel of God

Outline:

- **Prologue:** 1:1-17
- **Doctrinal:** 1:18-8:39
God’s holiness – man’s sinfulness – 1:18-3:20
Justification by grace through faith – 3:21-5:21
Sanctification of the believer – 6:1-8:39
- **Dispensational: 9:1-11:36** (The place of Israel and the church)
- **Practical:** 12:1-15:33 (Duties and privileges of the believer)
- **Epilogue:** 16:1-27

Paul in Romans shows that justification is by faith alone. And once we have placed our faith in Christ, we have absolute security. Paul in Romans 8 builds to the crescendo that absolutely NOTHING can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

God will not break relationship with believers. What He has sovereignly purposed will be fulfilled. Romans 8:28-30 is called “**The golden Chain of Salvation**”.

Slide # 2
Romans 8:28-30

- God purposed...
- He foreknew...
- He predestined...
- He called...
- He justified...
- He glorified...

But this brings forth a question: **What about Israel?** Did God not promise Israel an unbreakable relationship? Has God failed in what He has PURPOSED in relation to Israel?

As we move to Romans 9 the subject matter is clearly Israel. Keeping that in mind will help one not to lose sight of the main thing Paul is dealing with – and that is God’s sovereign dealings with and plan for Israel.

In Romans 9 Paul begins by emphasizing his great sorrow over Israel and their lost condition – generally speaking. He plainly says he is addressing the issue of “Israelites” (v. 4). He then rehearses how they as a people have been singularly blessed and favored by God. All the way through NATIONAL Israel as a nation is in view.

Slide # 3

Eight special Blessings/Privileges (Romans 9:4-5)

- Adoption
- The glory
- The covenants
- Giving of the law
- Service of God
- The promises
- The fathers
- The Christ

So what has happened? The majority of Jews have not responded to the Messiah (Jesus). If God made all these special promises to Israel – how is it that Israel is in a state of rejection? Can the PURPOSE of God have failed? That is the great issue under discussion in Romans 9-11 and the question that Paul now addresses head on.

Romans 9 deals with the issue of election – but note it is in relation to Israel. That is the MAIN subject at hand. But because it deals with election related to certain individuals there is all manner of debate related to all kinds of details related to the text.

Romans 9 has been called, “*The most difficult portion in the entire Bible*”. It has been called, “*The most neglected portion in the Bible*”, and it has been called, “*The most misunderstood portion in the Bible*” – which is almost funny because every debated viewpoint claims all the others misunderstand.

The word “election” means choice. We are about to have national elections – we as a society are going to make selective choices.

In discussing the election of Israel Paul's train of thought shows that God's choice of Israel was not based on hereditary, not based on merit or works, and therefore Israel's disobedience cannot nullify His sovereign purpose for her. This is all about God's plan for Israel. Human choice has nothing to do with it. It's all about God's choice – His sovereign plan.

Our greatest error in considering the choices of God is to think that God chooses for arbitrary reasons, as if He chooses in an “eeny-meeny-miny-moe” way. We may not be able to fathom God's reasons for choosing, and they are reasons He alone knows and answers to, but God's choices are *not* capricious. He has a plan and a reason.'

– **David Guzik**

In this section Paul makes it clear that God has always worked His plan in relation to the principle of ELECTION. He chose Abraham through whom He would build a special nation and through whom would come the Messiah. Now you might not like it that God chose Abraham for this special role – but God does not need your permission. Election is His sovereign prerogative.

Paul shows that God elected Israel to work out His sovereign purposes related to salvation and then further shows that these purposes involve MERCY.

Slide # 4

Romans 11:32 (NKJV)

32 For God has committed them **all to disobedience**, that He might have **mercy on all**.

Whatever, your view of election is, don't forget the sovereign purpose of God is “that He might have mercy on all.”

As a matter of interpretation – what is called a hermeneutical principle – when you come to matters of great theological debate it is good to remember that we must always start with an inductive study which brings to the table the full counsel of God. We must not just be selective in our treatment of the Scriptures. False teachers specialize in this. There is a deductive procedure that gives the appearance of sound exegesis but in truth it leaves out whole sections of truth. And frankly all sides in the debate over God's sovereignty versus human responsibility tend to do this. Don't call yourself a “Biblicist” if you are selective in your treatment of the Scriptures. Some of the most intelligent people in the world are in this category.

They claim Scripture for their view – and they have it. But the question is: Does this reflect the teaching of the full counsel of God? I would remind us that only those who “rightly divide the word of truth” in the end are approved to God (2 Tim. 2:15) – and I speak to myself first and foremost.

In discussing this topic, I want to propose 3 presuppositions.

Slide # 5

- 1) God is sovereign.
- 2) People are responsible.
- 3) There is mystery here.

And this calls for a huge dose of HUMILITY. Those that clamor on and on about claiming to know it all in my view have already demonstrated how little they really know.

Let us humbly seek God for wisdom but realize that part of the whole counsel is that at the end of this discussion Paul says of God, “***How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out!***” (Rom. 11:33) I don’t know about you, but I am good with that!

Yes, we want to know all that God wants us to know, but in humility we also need to realize we can’t understand the full mind of God. To claim to be able to do so is to claim to be God.

The Scripture furnishes numerous instances where God’s sovereignty and man’s free will interplay with each other. Both are biblical teachings. For man to try to alter either one to find a reconciliation is an attempt to eat of the fruit of the forbidden tree, an attempt of man to escape his finitude so as to become like an infinite God. ...

The best we as humans can do is to accept the Bible’s teaching about both the absolute sovereignty of God and freedom of men to make their own moral decisions whether to believe in Christ or not, without changing either teaching. From the standpoint of human logic and philosophical reasoning, the two teachings are in conflict, but from a biblical standpoint they are not. **-Robert Thomas – In The Master’s Seminary Journal – Fall 2001, pg. 202**

Bottom line: Don’t try and play God. Leave being God to God!

Romans 9:6–13 (NKJV)

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel,

Here is the central issue and Paul starts out with an affirmation that it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. The problem with Israel is not that God's word has failed. It's not that God has failed to keep His promises.

The problem is not that God or His word have failed rather the issue is, ***“they are not all Israel who are of Israel”***. Just because one comes out of Israel – that is a descendant of Jacob does not mean they are a true Israelite – in the full and spiritual sense of the word.

The Jews commonly thought that just being a physical Jew ensured that they were saved and would ultimately be in the kingdom. They lived by the motto: ***“Abraham is our father and therefore we are in”***.

Slide # 6**Luke 3:8 (NKJV)**

8 Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, **‘We have Abraham as our father.’** For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.

John 8:39 (NKJV)

39 They answered and said to Him, **“Abraham is our father.”** Jesus said to them, “If you were Abraham’s children, you would do the works of Abraham.

Slide # 7

If Abraham’s faith be not in your hearts, it will be no advantage that Abraham’s blood is in your veins.” – ***John Flavell***

We might make a comparison with Christianity: Not everyone who is called a Christian is a true follower of Christ. God has no grandchildren. Everyone must make their own faith commitment! No one can do it for you. Salvation is not a matter of heredity but rather a matter of FAITH!

Paul has already dealt with this reality earlier in the book in Romans 2.

Slide # 8

Romans 2:28–29 (NKJV)

28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Just because one was a Jew outwardly did not make them one inwardly. Many were physical Jews but their hearts were not right with God – they had no true saving faith.

God’s word here in Romans 9:6 refers to His promises to Israel. Paul has already shown earlier in the book that “the promise” (of being accounted righteous on the basis of faith) is by faith alone not only in reference to Jews but also in reference to Gentile believers.

Slide # 9**Romans 4:16 (NKJV)**

16 Therefore it is of faith that it might be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all

The Jews as a whole claimed to be “God’s people” but only a remnant within the group really knew God and had a personal saving faith relationship with Him.

It is folly to think that ALL physical Jews can claim the promise of God related to having a saving relationship with God. That has never been the case. There has always been only a remnant. Even in the end when Paul says, “all Israel will be saved” in Romans 11:26, realize that this will involve only a remnant.

Slide # 10**Zechariah 13:8–9 (NKJV)**

8 And it shall come to pass in all the land,” Says the LORD, “That two-thirds in it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it:

9 I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, ‘This is My people’; And each one will say, ‘The LORD is my God.’ ”

Yes, in the end all Israel will be saved, but that will only be after all the unbelievers have been purged out. God has consistently worked through a remnant and that will be true right up to the time of the kingdom. It is a mistake to think that all the Jews (as we now know them to be) will ultimately be saved – “For they are not all Israel who are of Israel.”

Throughout this section of his letter Paul seems to have Israel as a whole primarily in mind, not individuals, and to be dealing with election to service rather than eternal salvation. God is working out a great purpose in history [in relation to His people Israel].

– **Leon Morris**

All Jews were a part of God’s elect nation called Israel, but not all within Israel are “**the election of grace**” as so called by Paul in Romans 11:5.

The bottom line is that God is not unfaithful to His promises to Israel. He has always had a remnant and that will be true to the end.

7 nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.”

Simply being a descendant of Abraham did not automatically make one a recipient of the promises. After all Abraham had various children. Ishmael was born to Hagar (Gen. 16). Six sons were born to Keturah (Gen. 25:1-4).

These were all the descendants of Abraham, but none of them were in the line of promise. God’s plan of salvation was God-ordained to run through Isaac. In Genesis 21:12 God told Abraham, “**in Isaac your seed shall be called**”. Salvation is of the Jews, but the Messiah had to come through the line of Isaac because “the promise” of God to Abraham was channeled through him and is ultimately fulfilled in Christ (cf. Jn. 4:22; Gal. 3 & 4).

In context Paul is developing the thought of God’s faithfulness in spite of Israel’s unfaithfulness. God’s salvation purposes were designed to be worked out through Israel in spite of her. And the point of emphasis at this point is that the promise was worked out specifically through Isaac. Isaac was God’s sovereign choice and not any of Abraham’s other children!

8 That is, those who are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

Again, just to be a physical descendant of Abraham did not make one a chosen child of God in the sense of being chosen to have the promise fulfilled through them. Rather it is the children of promise who are counted as the seed. This is according to God's selection. This included Isaac, but then also Jacob as Paul goes on to illustrate which of course would culminate in the ultimate chosen Seed Who is Christ (cf. Gal. 3:16, 19).

The point is God had a very specific plan that He was working out involving His specific selection of certain people for certain God-ordained roles that would lead right to the Messiah in whom all the promises are fulfilled.

9 For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

And here is the specific promise that Paul has in view.

Slide # 11

Genesis 18:10 (NKJV)

10 And He said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, **Sarah your wife shall have a son.**" (Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)

Genesis 18:14 (NKJV)

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and **Sarah shall have a son.**"

The promises that God made to Abraham regarding "seed" would come through Sarah in the sense that she would be the one to bring forth the child of promise. Of course, if you know the story this was a TOTAL God-thing as both Abraham and Sarah were old and reproductively dead.

Slide # 12

Romans 4:19–21 (NKJV)

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, **already dead** (since he was about a hundred years old), and the **deadness of Sarah's womb.**

20 He did not waver at the **promise of God** through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what **He had promised** He was also able to perform.

God's ways are not our ways. They are supernatural ways that defy human logic. But the point in context is this was all happening according to God's purpose of ELECTION – His sovereign choice! It happened according to God's Word, according to His promise. God's Word must be fulfilled!

10 And not only this, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac

Paul now moves to another illustration of God's electing choice – namely that of Jacob.

It is pointed out that to be a true Jew one must have FOUR FATHERS. The Arabs today can count Abraham as their father, but they are not Jews as they descended from him through Ishamel. The descendants of Esau (Edomites) can claim Abraham and Isaac as their father but they are not Jews. The natural born Jews can claim Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as their natural father, but until they come to faith they are not a true (or completed) Jew. A completed Jew must also know God as their Father.

Slide # 13

John 8:42 (NKJV)

42 Jesus said to them, "**If God were your Father**, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me.

To be the true Israel (Rom. 9:6), to be a true Jew (Rom. 2:28-29) one must have FOUR "fathers" – that of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (naturally speaking), and then GOD (spiritually speaking)! And the way one becomes a child of God is by FAITH.

Slide # 14

Galatians 3:26 (NKJV)

26 For you are **all sons of God through faith** in Christ Jesus.

Galatians 3:29 (NKJV)

29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and **heirs according to the promise.**

Paul continues with God's electing program regarding Israel as he now explains what happened in conjunction with the twins born from Rebecca. And to make sure we get it he qualifies the exact point he is wanting to make concerning God's electing purpose.

11 (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

In the case of Abraham's sons there were different mothers involving different births. But in his case, we have the same mother and the same father (Rebecca and Isaac) and the same birth event. This involved one birth and two children (twins).

If man was doing the choosing then certainly Esau would have been the chosen one. He was born first and typically the firstborn was consistently favored. And he was Isaac's favorite which normally and naturally would give him great advantage.

In the two cases cited by Paul, both rejected men [Ishamel and Esau] had been born into the patriarchal family and in each case the parent wished to see the rejected one inherit the promise. Abraham pleaded with God for Ishmael (Gen. 17:18), and Isaac did his best to pass on the patriarchal blessing to Esau (Gen. 27:1-4, 30-33). Paul's point is that in His dealings with Israel, God dealt with them [according to His own sovereign prerogative]. – **John Phillips**

The emphasis is STRONG here that the choice belonged to God alone and not to man. The choice was made before the sons were born, before either of them had done any good or bad. Therefore, it had nothing to do with them and what they did or didn't do.

And God did it this way so that His PURPOSE "according to election" (His sovereign choice) might stand. This is totally God's doing! Election here is totally according to God's choosing. Works had nothing to do with it. It was purely on the basis of God's election which is here aligned with His call.

"Calls" in this context correlates directly to the purpose of God's election. Calling is according to election. God elects and He calls according to election. That is the principle stated here! "Calls" here in verse 11 is the same word Paul used in 9:7 and also in Romans 8:30. It is clearly intimately connected with God's electing activity here in verse 11.

The REASON for the choice here is found solely in the CHOOSER and not in the chosen. Yes, a distinction is made between individuals here in terms of God's choosing, but there is a BIGGER picture than just them individually. We know this because of what God told Rebecca in Genesis 25:23.

Slide # 15**Genesis 25:23 (NKJV)**

23 And the LORD said to her: “**Two nations are in your womb, Two peoples** shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”

Notice God did not say there are two children in your womb (oh that was true) but they represented two nations, two peoples.

Who can comprehend the ELECTION of Israel? That is the topic in this whole context. Why did God choose Israel? That Israel was an ELECT nation there can be no doubt as the Scripture is very clear on this (cf. Deut. 7:6-7; 1 Kgs. 3:8; Ps. 135:4; Isa. 45:4). But WHY? This we are not told!

Slide 16**Deuteronomy 7:7–8 (NKJV)**

7 The LORD did not **set His love on you nor choose you** because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples;

8 but **because the LORD loves you**, and **because He would keep the oath** which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Specific reasons are NOT given other than the LORD loved them and He would keep His oath which He swore to the patriarchs. In truth we are not given any other specific reasons other than the one we are given right here in Romans 4:11.

And the reason stated here in Romans 9 is that God did it so that His PURPOSE according to ELECTION might stand. Behind the PURPOSE of God is election and that stands! You might not like it – but it stands anyway!

The Scripture is telling us that this is all according to God’s sovereign choice and His choice alone and He did it this way because He wanted to. God chose to work through Israel by way of ELECTION – His own choice. That’s all we know and that is good enough! God is God and He can do as He pleases.

Slide # 17

Psalm 115:3 (NKJV)

3 But our God is in heaven; **He does whatever He pleases.**

God's purpose in ELECTION firms out everything. It tells us He is in charge! History is His Story! Without sovereignty there could be no prophecy because nothing would be certain. But God in His sovereignty not only knows all things, but He also controls all things.

Under the umbrella of God's sovereignty He **promotes** some things, He **permits** some things, and He **prevents** some things; but He is sovereign over all things. There is mystery in how His sovereignty interacts with these three "P's", but there is no doubt as to His sovereignty over it all.

Now realize that God in the ELECTION of Israel always had a BIGGER picture in view than just Israel. It was God's sovereign plan that through Abraham and the nation of Israel which brought forth the Messiah, that in and through Abraham "***all the families of the earth shall be blessed***" (Gen. 12:3). God, although working through Israel, all along had an ALL-WORLD program in mind!

Keep that in mind if you are wanting to cry "No fair" in God's choosing of Israel.

To even raise the question of unfairness assumes we know what fairness in its final, absolute sense looks like. That is the creature's presumptuousness. Since we do not know the mind of God nor can we fathom His ways (Rom. 11:33-34), we are not in a very good position to judge His purposes. We see and experience only pieces ... Only God sees the whole... - ***Hard Sayings of the Bible***, p. 559

God has determined that His sovereign purposes will be fulfilled – and even Israel's disobedience cannot nullify the elective purposes of God.

Slide # 18**Malachi 3:6 (NKJV)**

6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob.

It is a good thing for Israel that God's elective purposes do not change! God Himself does not change! His sovereign plan does not change! His covenant promises do not change!

God's purpose according to His choice (v. 11) is a prominent theme in chapters 9 and 11 (see 9:15, 17, 18, 19-21, 22-24; 11:1-2, 4-6, 23, 28-29, 30-32). – ***The Moody Bible Commentary***

Slide # 19

Election in Rom. 9:10-13 is not selection for eternal salvation or damnation. Rather, it is selection for the roles God has called individuals and nations to play in their earthly life.

– ***Wycliffe Bible Commentary***

And right here is where the debate rages. Is Paul addressing only election in regard to the nation of Israel or is he also illustrating a principle that applies to individual salvation?

While involving God's choice of individuals, I believe at this point Paul is thinking essentially in terms of national election as the text I believe will go on to show in the following verses. As Paul gets to Romans 11 he will show how "***the election of grace***" intersects with individuals but here in Romans 9 he is essentially dealing with the concept of national Israel as the beginning of the chapter makes clear.

Note there is nothing about FAITH in this section. There is this great debate over whether election is based on faith or whether people come to faith based on election. But that discussion about election and faith is not what Paul is addressing at this point in Romans 9. Rather, he at this point is recounting God's election of national Israel and how this developed.

Notice where he goes in the development of his thought as seen in verses 12 and 13.

Even before the twins Esau and Jacob were born God according to His sovereign choice told Rebecca, "The older shall serve the younger" as seen in Genesis 25:23.

12 it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger."

Again, I believe that Paul ultimately has in mind here the two separate nations that Esau and Jacob represented (cf. Gen. 25:23). In fact, Esau never personally served Jacob. However, in time the Edomites (the descendants of Esau) did come to serve the Israelites (cf. 1 Sam. 14:47; 2 Sam. 8:14; 1 Kg. 11:15-16; 22:47; 2 Kg. 14:7).

In fact, during their lifetime the exact opposite happened. In Genesis 33 Jacob came and bowed down to Esau (Gen. 33:3), and called him “my lord” (Gen. 33:8), and said that he was Esau’s servant (Gen. 33:14).

All of this argues that there is a BIGGER picture in view here than merely individuals. These individuals represent nations and how God sovereignly chose to favor Israel.

The argument concerns Israel as a whole and its place in the purpose of God. -**Leon Morris**

13 As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

This quote comes from Malachi.

Slide # 20

Malachi 1:2–3 (NKJV)

2 “I have loved you,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’ Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” Says the LORD. **“Yet Jacob I have loved;**

3 But **Esau I have hated**, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness.”

Very clearly Jacob and Esau here represent their respective nations – namely Israel and Edom. Interestingly, Paul quoted from Genesis (25:23), the first book of the Bible, and then from Malachi (1:2-3), the last book of the OT to make his point. Clearly, he is developing a BIG picture here related to God’s sovereign election of Israel. In Genesis (“the older shall serve the younger” -Gen. 25:23) we have a prophetic statement which looks forward; but in Malachi we have a historical statement (“Jacob I have loved...Esau I have hated” – Mal. 1:2-3) which looks backward.

What God had to say here in Malachi was written over 1500 years after the time of Jacob and Esau. So clearly, a NATIONAL theme is involved here.

We have just seen that the Genesis passage refers primarily to nations and we would expect that to continue here. – **Leon Morris**

In this connection, by quoting Malachi 1:2, 3, Paul lifts the discussion from what might appear to be a purely personal one to the plane of corporate, national life. ... Malachi is appealing to the course of history as fulfilling the purpose of God declared long before.

– **Expositors**

The Bible often uses the comparative language of love and hate to make a contrasting point – in this way we see a contrasting of Jacob who was chosen and Esau who was rejected.

This hatred is not a matter of being temperamental or emotional. Jesus said, unless we hate our family we cannot be His disciple (Lk. 14:26). This is the language of contrast or comparison emphasizing Jesus must be MOST important. He is not saying we must literally HATE our family. That would fly in the face of many other Scriptures (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8).

A good example of this contrast is seen in Jacob's love for Rachel and his lack of love for Leah.

Slide # 21

Genesis 29:30–31 (NKJV)

30 Then Jacob also went into Rachel, and he also **loved Rachel more than Leah.** And he served with Laban still another seven years.

31 When the LORD saw that Leah was **unloved [literally “hated”]**, He opened her womb; but Rachel was barren.

Jacob did not actually HATE Leah but the contrast is so great as to be stated in this way. Jacob chose Rachel to be his marriage partner and he loved her accordingly. He chose to love her. But in contrast Leah was “hated” or unloved in the sense she was not chosen.

What Paul is saying is that Esau was not God's choice – he was not the object of God's electing purpose.

Thus, the contrast of loved and hated is a Hebrew idiom for “preference”. One is chosen above the other. This whole section is emphasizing God's sovereign selection of Israel and how each step along the way we see this reality played out.

A woman once said to Charles Spurgeon, “I can't understand why God should say that He hated Esau.” Spurgeon replied, “That is not my difficulty, madam. My trouble is to understand how God could love Jacob.”

It is important to note that this does not mean that Ishmael and Esau were totally excluded. It was God's command that they receive circumcision which was the sign of covenant relationship (cf. Gen. 17:9-13, 23, 26).

They were not excluded from the MERCY of God and both received blessing as seen for example in Genesis 17.

Slide # 22

Genesis 17:20 (NKJV)

20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, **I have blessed him**, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

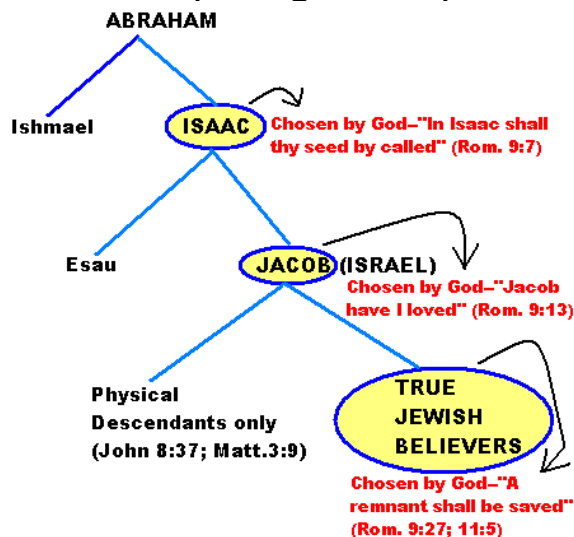
This passage [Rom. 9] refers to earthly blessings, and not to eternal life. God's hatred of Edom does not mean that individual Edomites can't be saved, any more than His love of Israel means that individual Jews don't need to be saved. – **William MacDonald**

Slide # 23

It is important to stress that neither as they occur in Genesis nor as they are used by Paul do these words refer to eternal destinies either of the two persons or of the individual members of the nations sprung from them; the reference is rather to mutual relations of the two nations in history.” – **C.E.B. Cranfield**

God is love (1 Jn. 4:8, 16). He so loved the world (Jn. 3:16). In Romans 5:8 He is specifically said to love sinners. He is not wishing for any to perish (2 Pet. 3:9). He has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezek. 33:11). And He invites all to come to Him and be saved (Isa. 45:22; Rev. 22:17).

Slide # 24 (George Zeller)



Israel is a conundrum to the world. They can't figure it out. It's always in the news – but why? Israel is **a small country in the Middle East about the size of the state of New Jersey**. Israel is one of the smallest countries in the world and yet constantly commands the attention of the entire world!

And the world HATES Israel. Constantly the United Nations makes resolutions that are anti-Israel. Right now, the fever of antisemitism is at the highest fever pitch (and that worldwide) that it has been since the Holocaust. And yet the world does not even know what it is doing – being under the sway of the wicked one who deceives the whole world (1 Jn. 5:19; Rev. 12:9).

Involved is a spiritual war with the “ruler of this world” (Satan- Jn. 12:31) doing everything he can to try and disrupt the plan of God involving Israel! The Devil is responsible for much false teaching that says God is done with Israel – which is blasphemy.

Most Jews, while culturally Jewish, are secular when it comes to religion. The Jews tend to believe that their being back in the land is their own doing. They believe they are a self-made people. Theodor Herzl is often called the father of modern Zionism but note he was an atheist.

There is no explanation for the phenomenon called Israel other than GOD! God has preserved Israel despite herself and in spite of the world. Israel just won't go away. They continue to be on the world's stage – front and center. They are constantly in the news. And we know the reason why. They are uniquely God's chosen people with a God-ordained destiny!

Today, in front of the Knesset (the seat of Israel's government) stands a great seven-armed candlestick called a menorah. On it are engraved the words from Zechariah 4:6, “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.”

This, and this alone, explains the phenomenon of Israel from beginning to end. This is God's story that He has chosen to write in history and it will be fulfilled “that the purpose of God according to election might stand”.

Everyone has two fathers. We have a physical father and we have a spiritual father. Our spiritual father is either the devil or God.

Actually, every believer has three “fathers” – so to speak. As a believer you have an earthly physical father (and mother of course).

But then, as a believer, you also have Abraham as your father in the sense that you share in the faith of Abraham. You have the same kind of saving faith that Abraham had. And if you share in Abraham's faith then you have God as your Father!

Today, those who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are the spiritual children of Abraham as Paul brings out in both Romans 4 (4:11-12, 16) and also Galatians 3 (3:9, 26, 29). Abraham is said to be the father of all true believers, whether Jew or Gentile, in terms of background.

Slide # 25

Romans 4:11 (NKJV)

11 And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while still uncircumcised, **that he might be the father of all those who believe**, though they are uncircumcised, that righteousness might be imputed to them also,

Believing Gentiles are the spiritual descendants of Abraham, but not his physical descendants. Believing Jews are both the physical and spiritual descendants of Abraham. Unbelieving Jews are the physical descendants of Abraham but NOT his spiritual descendants. Unbelieving Gentiles have no relationship to Abraham at all!

The consistent catalyst that connects one to Abraham spiritually is FAITH!

What is your relationship to Abraham? Do you share in his kind of faith?

What is your relationship with God?

If you have no relationship with Abraham, you have no relationship with God. Abraham, "believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness."

Have you believed in the LORD?

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!