

Catch Me Up in Your Story— Israel and the Nations (Rom 9)

I. Romans, The Gospel and the Righteousness of God

A. Rom 1-8 Salvation

Rom 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? **38** For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, **will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

B. Rom 12-16 Application

Rom 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. **[slide 1]**

C. Rom 9-11 The Israel Issue

Israel is the only nation in the world with a complete history—past, present, and future.

Yet in Paul's experience — Most Jews rejected, Church becoming predominantly Gentile.

1. Past Election – Ch 9

Israel's history magnified God's faithfulness, righteousness, justice, and grace

2. Present Rejection – Ch 10

3. Future Restoration – Ch 11

D. Other Issues

1. **Paul's Reputation** — Considered a traitor; Coming confrontation— prayer for journey to Jerusalem.
2. **God's Character** — Promises to Israel consistent with dynamics of only some Jews and many Gentiles coming to faith. Analysis of the surprising rejection and reception of the gospel of Christ. Rom 11:1-10 Many Jews coming to faith. 11:11-32 future climax "All Israel will be saved!" (26) Stunning Doxology(33-36) **Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!**

II. Paul, Israel, and God's Promises (9:1-6)

A. Paul's Anguish

Rom 9:1 I am speaking the **truth in Christ**—I am not lying; my **conscience** bears me witness in the **Holy Spirit**— **2** that I have **great sorrow** and **unceasing anguish** in my **heart**. **3** For I could wish that I **myself** were **accursed** and cut off from Christ **for the sake of my brothers**, my **kinsmen** according to the flesh.

Sincere... Sacrificial ... Like Moses ... yet substitutionary

B. Israel's Privileges (9:4-5)

4 And *they were all* **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Ro 9:4 They are Israelites, and to them belong the **adoption**, the **glory**, the **covenants**, the **giving of the law**, the **worship**, and the **promises**. **5** To them belong the **patriarchs**, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the **Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever**. Amen.

High Christology

C. God Keeps His Promises (9:6a) Thesis of Chapters 9-11

Rom 9:6a But it is not as though the word of God has failed.

D. Not all Israel is Israel (9:6b) Thesis of Ro 9:7-29

Rom 9:6b For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel,

III. Promises and God's Free Choices

God is free to narrow or expand the bounds of the Promises

These are NATIONAL not INDIVIDUAL Promises

A. Isaac over Ishmael

Rom 9:7 and **not all are children of Abraham** because they are his offspring, but "**Through Isaac** shall your offspring be **named** (*lit. Called*)." **8** This means that **it is not the children of the flesh** who are the children of God, but the **children of the promise** are **counted** as offspring. **9** For this is what **the promise** said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son."

B. Jacob over Esau

Rom 9:10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, **11** though they were **not yet born** and had **done nothing** either good or bad—in order that **God's purpose of election** might continue, **not because of works** but **because of him who calls**— **12** she was told, "The older will serve the younger." **13** As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

- Purpose — **prothesis**: plan or intention
- Election — **eklogé**: to call out from a group
- Call — when God calls, it is a summons, He doesn't just invite Jacob to a certain privilege, he brings him to it. Not a matter of CHANCE but of DETERMINATION of God's call.

C. Pharaoh (14-18)

Rom 9:14 What shall we say then? Is there **injustice** on God's part? **By no means!** 15 For he says to Moses, "**I will have mercy** on whom I have mercy, and **I will have compassion** on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on **human will** or **exertion**, but on **God, who has mercy.** [slide 2]

17 For the **Scripture** says to **Pharaoh**, "For **this very purpose** I have raised you up, that **I might show my power** in you, and that **my name** might be **proclaimed in all the earth.**" 18 So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills.

No logical explanation of the tension between God's sovereign righteousness and human culpability. It is **Mystery** and **Mercy!**

NIV - desire or effort NKJ - him who wills or him who runs

God's Freedom flows from His EXISTENCE — YHWH, I AM

God's Purpose goes beyond justice. If he could only do what is just, he would have to **condemn all of us!** No one **deserves** mercy.

Paul's Justification by Faith does not contradict the O.T. depiction that the Jews are God's CHOSEN people.

The PROMISE of the Father is for YOU

IV. The Freedom of God (9:19-29)

A. Accountability, Ownership, and Purpose (19-23)

Rom 9:19 You will say to me then, "**Why** does he still find fault? For **who can resist his will?**" 20 But **who are you, O man, to answer back** to **God?** Will what is **molded (Gk — plasma)** say to its molder, "Why have you made me like this?" 21 **Has the potter no right over the clay**, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use?

22 **What if God**, desiring **to show his wrath** and to **make known his power**, has **endured with much patience** vessels of wrath **prepared** for destruction, 23 in order to **make known the riches of**

his glory for vessels of mercy, which **he has prepared** beforehand **for glory**—

C. Calling — Sovereign Mercy (24-29)

Gentiles

Rom 9:24 even us whom he has called, not **from the Jews** only but also **from the Gentiles?** 25 As indeed he says in **Hosea**,

“Those who were **not my people I will call ‘my people,’**
and her who was **not beloved I will call ‘beloved.’**” (H 2:23)

26 “And **in the very place** where it was said to them, ‘You are **not my people,**’
there they will be called **‘sons of the living God.’**” (H 1:10)

Jews

27 And **Isaiah** cries out **concerning Israel:**

“Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant** of them will be **saved**, (Is 10:22)

28 for the Lord will carry out his sentence upon the earth fully and without delay.”

29 And as Isaiah predicted,

“If the Lord of hosts had not left us offspring,
we would have been like Sodom
and become like Gomorrah.”

V. The Joy of Our Salvation

All Israel shall be saved! All the ends of the earth will know.

Rev 7 — 144,000 of Israel, a multitude no man can number!
[slide 3]

Salvation belongs to our God who **sits** on the throne, and to the **Lamb!**”

The **Call** of God **transformed** you: My people, Beloved, Sons of the living God!

You receive Power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you!

**PRAYER — “Catch me up in your story, all my life for
your glory”**

It's His Story! All the Earth will be filled with His Glory