

God's Sovereignty and the Nation Israel. Pt.3

Romans 9:1–13

Romans 9:1–13 (NKJV)

9 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, ⁴ who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of *God*, and the promises; ⁵ of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, ⁷ nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "*In Isaac your seed shall be called.*" 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. ⁹ For this *is* the word of promise: "*At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.*"

¹⁰ And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac 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), ¹² it was said to her, *“The older shall serve the younger.”* ¹³ As it is written, *“Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”*

Introduction

God makes choices. He has a will. And all of mankind is affected by the choices He makes.

It is God who chose to create the universe

It is God who chose to create angels

It is God who chose to create man

It is God who chose to create the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

It is God who chose to ordain the existence of evil

It is God who chose to judge the world with a flood.

It is God who chose Abraham to bless the world thru

It is God who chose Isaac and not Ishmael

It is God who chose Jacob and not Esau

It is God who chose to have His son born through Israelites

It is God who chose to send His Son Jesus Christ to save sinners

It is God who chose to speak to Israel in parables so they would not understand

It was God who chose to destroy Jerusalem and the Temple.

It is God who chose to have 12 Apostles

It is God who chose to have 66 books in our Bible

It is God who chose to create hell.

It is God who chose to make hell eternal.

So with all the emphasis today on man's choices

I want to declare emphatically that

God makes Choices

The Fact of God's Choice

God chose Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Solomon, Daniel, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and All the Major and minor Prophets, All the Apostles and all who make up his Bride, the church.

Exodus 3:1 (NKJV)

3 Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian..."

² And the Angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush..."

¹⁰ Come now, therefore, and **I will send you to Pharaoh** that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.”

Jeremiah 1:4–5 (NKJV)

⁴ Then the word of the Lord came to me, saying:

⁵ “**Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;**
Before you were born **I sanctified you;**
I ordained you a prophet to the nations.”

Israel

Deuteronomy 7:6–8 (NKJV)

⁶ “...the Lord your **God has chosen you** to be a people for Himself.... 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...”

Psalms 135:4 (NKJV)

⁴ For the **Lord has chosen** Jacob for Himself, Israel for His special treasure.

Isaiah 41:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸ “But you, Israel, *are* My servant,

Jacob whom **I have chosen**...,
 9 ...**I have chosen you** and have not cast you
 away:”

Matthew 11:25–27 (NKJV)

²⁵ ...Jesus answered and said, “I thank You,
 Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **You have
 hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent
 and have revealed them to babes**...²⁷ ...and no one
 knows the Son except the Father. **Nor does anyone
 know the Father except the Son, and *the one to
 whom the Son wills to reveal Him.***

Matthew 24:22 (NKJV)

²² And unless those days were shortened, no flesh
 would be saved; but **for the elect’s sake** those days
 will be shortened.

Matthew 24:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ For false christs and false prophets will rise and
 show great signs and wonders to deceive, if
 possible, **even the elect.**

Matthew 24:31 (NKJV)

³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of
 a trumpet, and they will gather together **His elect**

from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Romans 8:33 (NKJV)

³³ Who shall bring a charge against **God's elect**? *It is God who justifies.*

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as **He chose us** in Him before the foundation of the world,

Colossians 3:12 (NKJV)

¹² Therefore, as **the elect of God**, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering;

1 Thessalonians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, **your election by God.**

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because **God**

from the beginning chose you for salvation
through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Timothy 2:10 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Therefore I endure all things **for the sake of the elect**, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Titus 1:1–2 (NKJV)

1 Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of **God's elect** ...
2 in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,

James 2:5 (NKJV)

⁵... **Has God not chosen the poor of this world**
to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

1 Peter 1:2 (NKJV)

2 elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:

1 Peter 2:9–10 (NKJV)

⁹ But **you are a chosen generation**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once *were* not a people but *are* now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

2 Timothy 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ who has **saved us and called us with a holy calling**, not according to our works, but **according to His own purpose and grace** which was given to us in Christ Jesus **before time began**,

Romans 8:29–30 (NKJV)

²⁹ For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be** conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom He **predestined**, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

John 6:37 (NKJV)

³⁷ “All that the Father gives Me will come to Me,…”

John 6:39 (NKJV)

³⁹ “This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing,…”

John 17:2 (NKJV)

² “...You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.”

John 17:6 (NKJV)

⁶ “I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me,...”

John 17:9 (NKJV)

⁹ “I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You have given Me, for they are Yours.”

John 17:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ ...”Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me,...”

John 10:16 (NKJV)

¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.

Acts 13:48 (NKJV)

⁴⁸ Now when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the word of the Lord. And as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

Revelation 17:8 (NKJV)

⁸ The beast that you saw...will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world,

Acts 22:14 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Then he (Ananias) said (to Saul/ Paul), 'The God of our fathers has chosen you that you should

know His will, and see the Just One, and hear the voice of His mouth.

It is not debatable at all that God is the one making the choice. The choice was made by God before the foundation of the world, long before you every existed. You were not around to give any input or voice your opinion or to persuade God to choose you.

A couple of notes about this choice

1. He chose you before you were born
2. He chose you sovereignly, according to His will,
3. He chose you not based on your works or faith.
4. He chose you for His purpose and Pleasure.

1. He chose you BEFORE you were born

Ephesians 1:4 (NKJV)

⁴ just as He chose us in Him **before the foundation of the world,**

2 Thessalonians 2:13 (NKJV)

¹³ “... **God from the beginning chose you for salvation** through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,”

2. He chose you **sovereignly**, according to **His will**,

Ephesians 1:5 (NKJV)

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,

Romans 9:15–16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ For He says to Moses, *“I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”*

¹⁶ So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.

3. He chose you **NOT** based on your works or faith.

Not Works

Romans 9:11 (NKJV)

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),

4. He chose you for **His purpose** and **Pleasure**.

Ephesians 1:5–6 (NKJV)

⁵ having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, **according to the good pleasure** of His will, ⁶ **to the praise of the glory of His grace**, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Ephesians 1:9 (NKJV)

⁹ having made known to us the mystery of His will, **according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself**,

Ephesians 1:11–12 (NKJV)

¹¹ In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, **being predestined according to the purpose of Him** who works all things according to the **counsel of His will**, ¹² that we who first trusted in Christ should be **to the praise of His glory**.

The Content of the previous chapter is what creates the Crisis of Faith in Chapter 9-11.

The stupendous and lofty, grandiose and glorious truth of the security of the believer in chapter 8, is what brings Paul to the logical and right conclusion that some would ask.... What about Israel?

The unequaled absolutes of Paul's teaching on the eternal nature of God's promises and choices found in Roman 8 regarding our salvation, and that God has made a choice to know you from eternity past and to predestine you to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, and that you are guaranteed to be Glorified is in question with the current state of Israel.

So Paul will take the next 3 chapters to deal with the obvious Elephant in the room... ISRAEL.

Paul, begins to show that although, it appears that Israel has been forsaken by God, and the promises and covenants of God have failed, it is in fact not true. Although the majority of Israel have rejected their Messiah, and are in a state of unbelief, it does not mean that the Word of God has failed.

Romans 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect.

How is it that the word of God has not failed when the majority of Israel is lost and unbelieving?

Then he makes this most astonishing statement.

"For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel".

Just because you are an Israelite, doesn't mean you are a true Israelite.

Just because you are a Jew, does not mean you are a true Jew.

Just because your physical lineage goes back to Abraham does not means you are a true son of Abraham.

v.6“For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel”,

So the ultimate question now is “WHY?”

Why are not all Israel, Israel?

The answer does not lie in the plan of man or the purposes of man but rather the plan of God.

All Israel is not Israel because God has determined it so.

1. To be a true Israelite is not according to Human Power But a result of the promise of God

Romans 9:7–9 (NKJV)

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

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

Abraham would try to help out the plan of God in unbelief by having a child the natural way, by human means and not by God. So he would have relations with Hagar to produce a child, Ishmael.

This is the child of the flesh.

But God, said, NO. You will have a child by my power and my promise, not by human means and by human power. So we enables Sarah to have a child in her old age even though she was barren.

It is a supernatural work of God, not man.

Abraham had 2 sons, initially
Ishmael and Isaac.

Ishmael was a child of the flesh.

Isaac was a child of the supernatural work of God.

Ishmael was a child of Human works.

Isaac was a child of faith.

Ishmael was a child with the right father, but wrong mother.

Isaac was a child of the right father and the right mother.

Ishmael was Abraham trying to make the plan of God happen.

Isaac was God making His plan happen.

Ishmael is of man.

Isaac is of God.

Ishmael, is a denial and rejection of the plan of God

Isaac is the submission to the plan of God

But Paul would anticipate that someone might say that you can expect that Isaac would be chosen over Ishmael because Ishmael was not the son of promise.

After all, Ismael's mother was a Gentile, slave girl.

So Paul's first point of Why all Israel is not Israel is

1. To be a true Israelite is not according to Human Power

But a result of the Sovereign promise of God

God did not promise this to Ishmael, but Isaac.

2.To be a true Israelite is not according to human position

But a result of the predestination of God

Romans 9:10–13 (NKJV)

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

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), ¹² it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*” ¹³ As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*”

10 And not only *this = Sarah, by whom the seed is called.*

But also Rebecca....

....by one man, of one man

In the first example of Abraham, We have one father and 2 different women produce 2 very different sons in 2 very different ways.

It's very easy to understand, why God might choose Isaac and not Ishmael.

BUT,

Now we have one man, Isaac with one women, Rebecca, produce 2 sons

We have 2 sons in the same womb at the same time from the same parents.

With Abraham we have a clear difference of one that is a work of the flesh and unbelief and the other that is a work of God and by faith.

But with Isaac we have a Work of God because Rebecca was also barren, but now we have 2 legitimate sons, twins born of the same father and mother.

Now notice verse 12

¹² it was said to her, *“The older shall serve the younger.”*

Genesis 25:20–23 (NKJV)

²⁰ Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah as wife,..... ²¹ Now Isaac pleaded with the Lord for his wife, because she *was* barren; and the Lord granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived.

²² But the children struggled together within her; and

she said, “If *all is well*, why *am I like this*?” So she went to inquire of the Lord.

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.”

Although we would expect the firstborn to have the position of preeminence and that He would be the one God would have chose but that is not the case at all.

Rather God predetermines that it will be Esau, the firstborn, who will serve the later, Jacob.

Esau’s own life and the lives of his descendants give clear evidence that they rejected God. And God’s statement that Esau would serve his younger brother extended to their progeny as well. There is no biblical record of Esau’s being personally subservient to Jacob, but much evidence that the nation of Edom, which descended from Esau, was often in direct or indirect subservience to and in conflict with the nation Israel, which derived from Jacob, whose name was later changed to Israel.

The Edomites soon became idolatrous, and centuries later the prophet Amos declared to them: “Thus says the Lord, ‘For three transgressions of Edom and for four I will not revoke its punishment, because he pursued his brother with the sword, while he stifled his compassion; his anger also tore continually, and he maintained his fury forever. So I will send fire upon Teman, and it will consume the citadels of Bozrah [the ancient capital of Edom]’ ” (Amos 1:11–12). Obadiah warned them that, “because of violence to your brother Jacob, you will be covered with shame, and you will be cut off forever” (Obad. 10).

MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (1991). [Romans](#) (Vol. 2, p. 26). Moody Press.

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

This love of Jacob, and hatred of Esau is fleshed out in the descendants of both. Judgment and cursing brought on the violent and idolatrous Edomites from Esau, and

This is the amazing part!!!

“*Jacob I have loved,*

Blessing and provision brought to the sometimes disobedience and even idolatrous descendants of Jacob. i.e. Israel.

So many get hung up on the statement
“Esau I have hated”

This should not be the shocker. In fact, if we have a biblical doctrine of Anthropology and Hamartiology, The doctrine of man and the sinfulness of man, who should be absolutely shocked that God could love any of us.

So the first born of the 2 does not get chosen by God but rather Jacob.

The Scripture is teaching us that, Gods choice of a true Israelite (saved person) has nothing to do with human power or human position. Men have nothing to do with choice of God. God does not determine his choice on the will or wants or the works of man.

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)

The point Paul is making is that all the promises and covenants of God are not failing because all Israel is not Israel, because God makes sovereign

unconditional choice of who will make up true Israel and who will not.

It is Sovereign, meaning that God is not controlled by anything outside his own character and pleasure of his will

It is Unconditional, meaning that God's choice is not determined by anything in man. Not what he is or isn't, not what he does or doesn't do. Not his ability or inability. Not his goodness or evil, or faith or no faith.

It is truly unconditional choice.

He chose Abraham, because he wanted to
He chose the blessing to come thur Isaac because he wanted to.

He chose Jacob and not Esau, because he wanted to

He determines who is Israel and who is not.

When Paul introduced us to this thought regarding Israels rejection of their Messiah and remaining in unbelief....

He said,

Romans 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect.

Why Paul,
Romans 9:11 (NKJV)

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),

Because it is God who controls who is Israel and who is not

It is God who Makes His Word True

It is God who fulfilled His Promise

It is God who Keeps His Covenants. It is not dependent on Man or his will or his choices.