

¹ 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.

The Fleshly And Spiritual Advantages Of Jews, 9:4-5 --- A list of nine phrases describe the blessings and distinctions enjoyed by Israel.

- a. **Israelites** - The Jews prided themselves in being the sons of Abraham, but they were not his only natural descendants because the Ishmaelites, Edomites, as well as the children of Keturah, likewise were descendants of Abraham. But the blessings promised to the patriarchs were fulfilled specifically in Jacob whose name was changed to Israel, Gen. 32:28.
- b. **The Adoption** - Only the descendants of Jacob were accorded the privilege of being adopted as God's "firstborn" (Ex.4:22), his own possession, Ex.19:5-6.
- c. **The Glory** - The sign of God's presence was constant with the Israelites: at Mt. Sinai (Ex.24:16-17), in the tabernacle (Ex.40:34-38), upon the mercy seat (Lev.16:2), filling the temple (Kgs. 8:10-11), and in many ways they were reminded that the Lord dwelt among them, Ex.29:45-46.
- d. **The Covenants** - Beginning with Abraham, God made covenants with Israel which he made with no other nation. The land, nation, and seed promises were the most significant and were repeated to Isaac and Jacob, Gen. 12:1-3.
- e. **Giving of the Law** - At Mt. Sinai the law was given through Moses, a covenant not made with other nations. but only with Israel, Deut. 5:1-3.
- f. **The Service of God** - Through the law God described in detail the kind of worship that was acceptable to Him. These stood as a "figure" for the true worship which would later be revealed in Christ, Heb. 9:1-10.
- g. **The Promises** - Many were God's promises of blessings through the centuries, but all were comprehended in the original promise made to Abraham that He would be a God "unto thee and to thy seed after thee," Gen. 17:7.
- h. **The Fathers** - The nation of Israel was particularly proud of their heritage. Through physical birth they were the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Because of the great faith of their fathers they had been blessed with privileges and protection unlike that bestowed on another nation on the earth.
- i. **Christ, As Concerning The Flesh** - The original promise had specified that all nations of the earth would be blessed through the seed of Abraham, Gen. 12:3. The law of Moses and the writing of the prophets are filled with references to the coming of the Messiah. The reason Israel was a chosen people of God was in order that through this family the son of God would come. Their physical lineage, history, and fulfillment of prophecy would serve as conformation of who the Christ is and that His coming was not an after-thought of God, but the fulfillment of a carefully planned scheme of redemption.

Romans "Salvation by the System of Faith" by Robert Harkrider p.116-117

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

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.*

"For they are not all Israel who are from Israel." This principle can be illustrated by two circles: one circle inside a larger circle." Both of these are "Israel"; but the larger circle represents all who are *physical* descendants of Israel (Jacob), while the smaller circle is made up of those whom we might call "*spiritual* Israel" or "*true* Israel." (Later in his discussion, Paul called them the "remnant" [9:27; 11:5].) Those in the smaller circle are physical descendants of Israel (Jacob), *but they also believe in Jesus*. In 2:28,29, Paul had said that "he is not a Jew who is one outwardly But he is a Jew who is one inwardly." The "true Jew" of chapter 2 and the "true Israel" of chapter 9 are references to a smaller number of Jews who had fulfilled God's purpose for the Jewish nation by accepting Jesus as the Messiah. **Truth For Today Commentary (Romans 8-16)** by David L. Roper pg. 135

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),

When Rebecca also had conceived (twins) by ... our father Isaac, (11) the twins not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, i.e., neither the actions of the children nor the Jewish preeminence of the firstborn affected the outcome, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, or to make it clear this was the doing of Him [God] who calls and not of works or man's doing. (12) God said, the older shall serve the younger (Gen. 25:23), although this was contrary to practices of the day. God "chose" Christ's ancestry, acting as He saw fit, not on the basis of kinship with Abraham, family customs, or supposed meriting works. **Reading Romans** by Robert Turner pg. 75

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

Genesis 25:23 (NKJV) *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."*

2 Samuel 8:14 (NKJV) *He also put garrisons in Edom; throughout all Edom he put garrisons, and all the Edomites became David's servants. And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.*

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

See [Malachi 1:2-5](#)

¹⁴ What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!

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.*"

Exodus 33:19

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

God's mercy = Psalm 25:10, Psalm 32:10, Proverbs 28:13, Hosea 10:12 & Luke 1:50

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "*For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.*"

¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

Though it is said that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, it is also said that Pharaoh hardened his own heart (Exod.8:15, 32; 9:34). Moreover, God clearly indicated that Pharaoh was responsible for his refusal to comply with God's will and that he was capable of choosing to comply (Exod.10:3). Pharaoh's heart, therefore, was not hardened apart from his own will. God simply provided the occasion and opportunity. God did not make him wicked; Pharaoh was already wicked. God simply brought to bear on Pharaoh such influences as would lead a wicked man to harden his heart. Whatever God did that led Pharaoh to harden his heart would not have caused a good man to harden his heart. God can use wicked people to accomplish certain goals.

Romans A Study by Johnny Stringer p. 53-54

¹⁹ You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?"

²⁰ But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?"

²¹ Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?

²² *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,

God's wrath – Romans 1:18

²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,

²⁴ *even* us whom He **called**, not of the **Jews** only, but also of the **Gentiles**?

"Called"

Romans 1:16 (NKJV) *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.*

2 Thessalonians 2:14 (NKJV) *To which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Galatians 3:26-29 (NKJV) ²⁶ *For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.*

²⁷ *For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.* ²⁸ *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.* ²⁹ *And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.*

Romans Chapter 9

Pg. 37

²⁵ As He says also in Hosea: *"I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved."*

Hosea 2:23

²⁶ *"And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."*

Hosea 1:10

²⁷ Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: *"Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved."*

Isaiah 10:22-23

²⁸ *For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the Lord will make a short work upon the earth."*

²⁹ And as Isaiah said before: *"Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."*

Isaiah 1:9

³⁰ What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;

³¹ but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

³² Why? Because *they did not seek it* by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

³³ As it is written: *"Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."*

1 Peter 2:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, *He is precious*; but to those who are disobedient, *"The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"* ⁸ and *"A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense."* They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Questions Romans 9

1. Why did Paul have great sorrow?

2. List the nine phrases the Robert Harkrider explains in verses 4-5.

Questions Romans 9

3. How would you explain the phrase, *“For they are not all Israel who are of Israel”*?
4. Briefly summarize Robert Turner’s explanation of verses 9-12.
5. What do we know about God’s mercy?
6. How does Johnny Stringer describe the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart?
7. What lesson is Paul trying to teach from verses 19-23?
8. Which verse states, *“He called”* and who is called according to this scripture?
9. Romans 9:31-33 and 1st Peter 2:7-8 reveals what concerning the Jews who did not respond favorably to Christ?
10. What will you choose to remember about this chapter?