

# The Service and Rejection of the Jews

In Romans chapters 9-11 Paul spends a great deal of time explaining the role Israel played in bringing about God's plan of salvation. The point of Romans 9-11 is to show that God is sovereign, and that He has been faithful to Israel. Paul's main point was that Israel was chosen for service – not salvation. To fail to understand Romans 9-11 is to miss the point of the entire Old Testament.

## **1- Paul sees Israel in a lost condition and his solution is conversion – not reformation.**

### **Romans 9:1-3**

<sup>1</sup> I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, <sup>2</sup> that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. <sup>3</sup> For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

### **Romans 10:1-4**

<sup>1</sup> Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. <sup>2</sup> For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup> For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup> For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.

## **2- Israel had been blessed by God and set apart for special service.**

### **Romans 9:4-5**

<sup>4</sup> who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service *of God*, and the promises; <sup>5</sup> of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

The greatest of all the blessings innumerate here, was the privilege of being the people through whom God would bring the Christ into the world. However, service does not mean salvation.

## **3- God can choose whomever He wants to use in service: Again, service does not mean salvation.**

Examples:

- 1- God chose Isaac over Ishmael and the other children Abraham had through concubines (Romans 9:8-9). This did not mean Ishmael and the other children were lost. They simply were not chosen for service.

- 2- God chose Jacob over Esau while they were yet in the womb of Rebekah (Romans 9:10-12).
- 3- He chose Pharaoh for an act of service (Romans 9:17-18). This did not mean Pharaoh was saved.

### **Romans 9:14-15**

<sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! <sup>15</sup> 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."*

God can choose and use anyone He wants to perform an act of service without granting them salvation. Is this unfair? No!

**Point:** People were not guaranteed salvation under the Old Law just because they were born a Jew. To the same point, just because a person was born a Gentile, did not mean he or she would be forever lost with no hope of salvation. God could use Jews or Gentiles in performing His service (Rahab is an example); He could save Jews and Gentiles alike.

## **4- Not all Israel was of Israel**

### **Romans 9:6**

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

The argument being combated by Paul is the same one we are combating today: **If Israel is not saved, then the word of God must have failed.**

**Paul's reply: God's word has not failed, for they are not all Israel who are of Israel.**

There are two Israels:

- A) National Israel
- B) Spiritual Israel

### **Romans 11:2-7**

<sup>2</sup> God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel, saying, <sup>3</sup> *"LORD, they have killed Your prophets and torn down Your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life?"* <sup>4</sup> But what does the divine response say to him? *"I have reserved for Myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal."* <sup>5</sup> Even so then, at this present time there is a remnant according to the election of grace. <sup>6</sup> And if by grace, then *it is* no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if *it is* of

works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

<sup>7</sup> What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks; **but the elect have obtained it, and the rest were blinded.**

The “elect” – Spiritual Israel

The “rest” – Physical Israel

Israel as a whole was not saved; only the remnant that remained faithful.

### **Romans 9:27**

<sup>27</sup> 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.*

### **5- God elects for salvation Jews and Gentiles alike who will obey His voice.**

### **Romans 9:24-26** (A partial quotation of Hosea)

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

<sup>25</sup> As He says also in Hosea:

*“ I will call them My people, who were not My people,  
And her beloved, who was not beloved.”*

<sup>26</sup> *“ 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.”*

## **Summary:**

**Romans chapter 9** discusses God’s sovereignty and how He chose Israel to perform a service.

**Romans chapter 10** discusses how every saved individual is saved by grace through faith – not by works of merit. The reason Israel was lost is because they tried to save themselves by works of merit.

**Romans chapter 11** goes into greater detail explaining how Jews and Gentiles alike are called.

God did not predestine Israel for salvation. Israel is lost because of her disobedience and unbelief. God has not been unfair in His dealings with them.

### **Note About Premillennialism**

As a closing point, please consider the following passage in light of a misapplication made by Premillennialists:

#### **Romans 11:26**

And so **all Israel** will be **saved**, as it is written: “ The Deliverer will come out of Zion, And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;

I copied and pasted this verse from an online Bible program and I want you to notice where they have placed the emphasis: **All Israel** will be **saved**.

Based on this verse, Premillennialists teach that one day all Israel will be saved. The problem is that they are placing emphasis on the wrong portion of the verse. Consider the context:

#### **Romans 11:25-27**

<sup>25</sup> For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. <sup>26</sup> And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written:

*“ The Deliverer will come out of Zion,  
And He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob;*

*<sup>27</sup> For this is My covenant with them,  
When I take away their sins.”*

The word “so” is very important. It is saying, ‘In this manner will all Israel be saved.’ In other words, all of Israel that is ever saved will be saved in the same manner. Paul was teaching the brethren at Rome that the Jews would reject the Gospel, the Gentiles would be converted, and this conversion of Gentiles would cause Jews to be converted in return. Romans 11:25-27 is not teaching all Israel will one day be converted and turned to Christ right before his millennial reign.

The idea that God predestined National Israel for salvation is false. The idea that National Israel is still God’s special people, is false. The idea that all National Israel will one day be saved, is not found in Scripture and is false. Paul was pleading with his countrymen that they might turn and obey the Gospel, rather than giving them a false hope of some future restoration and salvation.

## **Take Away Point:**

The Jewish nation was chosen for service – not salvation. The Jew's service is now completed and all must obey the gospel of Christ (Acts 17:30).