

**The Epistle to the Romans  
(Special English Edition)**

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**Righteousness Rejected**

**Reading assignment: Romans 9**

**Introduction**

Up to this point in our study of Romans (Chapters 1-8), we studied many of the great doctrines of the scriptures. Now Paul's thoughts turn to his own people, the nation of Israel.

In the Church of Rome there were no doubt many Jewish believers. Some of these Jewish members did not know about God's plan for Israel in this new dispensation of grace. These were some of the questions they asked, "Is God finished with Israel? Did God throw them away forever? Does God have a future plan for this nation?" We will discover Paul's answer to these questions as we study chapters 9, 10, and 11. Remember that while Romans 1-8 are doctrinal, Romans 9-11 are dispensational and relate dispensationally to Ephesians.

It is sad, indeed, that Paul must write about Israel's rejection of God. Paul just wrote about wonderful promises of God. He wrote about God's plan for the future and the wonderful inheritance for believers. He wrote about the plan of God and the power of God to take care of them. Now Paul must write that Israel rejected all of it! Considering the theme of the Righteousness of God, we see in Romans 9-11 "Righteousness Rejected."

**Importance of this Lesson**

- ❑ It is very important to study these chapters because there are those people today who teach that God is finished with Israel, the nation will never be restored and the church is now the "new Israel." They call the church the "spiritual" Israel.
- ❑ It is important to realize that these are false teachings. This is what we will discover in the study of Romans 9.

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**THE LESSON**

- Outline:**
- A. Paul's love for Israel – verses 1-3
  - B. Israel's glorious past – verses 4-5
  - C. The true Israel are the saved of Israel – verses 6-13
  - D. God's mercy and His sovereign will – verses 14-24
  - E. The stubborn unbelief of Israel – verses 25-33

**I. PAUL'S LOVE FOR ISRAEL – verses 1-3**

- A. In verse 1, we feel Paul's burden for his people. He said that I am telling you the truth, I am not lying to you. My conscience also bears witness in the Holy Spirit. Every believer should carry a burden for the lost.
- B. In verse 2, we see Paul's broken heart for the lost people of Israel. *...I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.* Paul had the joy of the Lord, but he also felt great sorrow for Israel, his brothers.
- C. It is difficult to understand Paul's statement in verse three. *...I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ...* if only the Jewish people could be saved. Paul was a great example in love for the lost. He was willing to be cursed by God if that resulted in the salvation of Israel. It is remarkable that Paul wrote these words immediately after writing that absolutely nothing could separate us from God's love (Romans 8:38-39).

## II. ISRAEL'S GLORIOUS PAST – verses 4-5

- A. In these verses, Paul described the glorious past of Israel and reminded the Jews that God chose them and blessed them. He called them “Israelites.” They were direct descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The word *adoption* refers to the whole nation, which came from these three great fathers. God chose these people and placed them as His own in His sovereign divine plan. *The Glory* refers to the presence of God in the “Shekinah” in the tabernacle. God made “covenants” (guaranteed agreements) with Israel. Some have been fulfilled and others will be fulfilled in the future. The great Mosaic Law was given to them at Mt. Sinai. *The service* referred to the offerings given by the people and the priests in the worship of God. The father of Israel received many promises concerning the Messiah, ...*of whom, as concerning the flesh Christ came....*
- B. The first phrase of verse 5 could refer to the first of three great patriarchs and the family line through which Christ came into the world. Paul ended this verse with a note of praise and adoration.

## III. THE TRUE ISRAEL – verses 6-13

- A. In these eight verses, Paul made a difference between saved Jews and unsaved Jews. Individually and as a nation Jews are God’s chosen people, but this does not mean that all Jews are saved.
- B. In verse 6, Paul said that the Word of God has not failed or fallen to the ground. Unsaved Jews are lost because they have not believed in God as their fathers did. Every Jew is not a spiritual child of Abraham. There is a natural Israel and a spiritual Israel.  
Compare Galatians 3:7 with Romans 2:28-29.
- C. In verse 7, this truth is clearly explained. The Jews are not the children of God or the children of faith until they believe God as their forefathers did. When they believe as their forefathers did they are accounted as righteous before God.
- D. In verse 8, the children of God are not the natural seed of the flesh but those who believe the promises and claim them by faith.
- E. In verses 9-13, Paul used the birth and choice of Isaac instead of Ishmael as an illustration of believing and unbelieving Jews. Paul used the birth of Jacob and Esau as illustrations of believing and unbelieving Jews. Verse 13 needs special attention. Many people have stumbled over this verse. God loved Jacob because He knew Jacob would believe the promises of God. God also knew Esau would not believe, so in advance, God hated his unbelief, his sin and rebellion. God’s love for the believing Jacob was so great in contrast to His feeling for unbelieving Esau, it was as though he hated Esau (Luke 14:26). Because God knew the future, He elected Jacob to be the true seed through which Christ would be born. This choice by God was not by works since Jacob was not yet born, but by His sovereign will.

## IV. GOD’S MERCY AND SOVEREIGN WILL – verses 14-24 – In these verses, Paul stressed the fact that the call, salvation, and preservation of both Israel and the Gentiles were according to God’s absolute sovereign will and plan. It is impossible to resist this plan.

- A. Verse 14 states that there is no unrighteousness with God. God has a plan and a will for everything He does.
- B. In verse 15, Paul quoted from Exodus 33:19. Paul had the Old Testament and believed that it was the inspired Word of God. ...*I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy....* God is absolutely sovereign in all His acts.
- C. In verse 16, God is not bound by the human will or by human works. He gives mercy with no considering human effort of deserving such mercy.
- D. In verse 17, God raised up Pharaoh to show His power over all earthly kings in order that His name might be preached throughout the earth.
- E. Verse 18 is a repetition of verse 16 with the addition of the word *hardeneth*. God hardens whom He will because of their unbelief.

- F. Verses 19-22 are the strongest words in the Bible about the powerful will of God. Man may blame God for allowing certain tragedies to happen. God hides His will from the human mind in all matters. Faith and trust in God's love and plan will eliminate our doubts. Paul did not answer his own questions in verses 19-21. Nobody can answer them through human reason. All God's children walk by faith and not by sight. We walk by faith, not by understanding.
- G. In verses 23-24, God shows His power through His anger but He shows the riches of His glory through His mercy. In verse 24, Paul included himself and all the saved Jews and Gentiles as pitchers of mercy. If you are a Gentile believer and you are saved, it is not because you deserve such blessing but because God looked for you. He saved you and prepared you for glory.

#### **IV. THE STUBBORN UNBELIEF OF ISRAEL – verses 25-33**

- A. Verses 25-27 – Again Paul used verses from two Old Testament Prophets, Hosea and Isaiah. Hosea 2:23 tells us about people who were not Jews but will be called “my people.” God would call and save Gentiles too. Isaiah 19:20-22 says the very same thing. Romans 9:26 shows us that the Gentiles will be called *the children of the living God*. Romans 9:27 tells us the God also has a remnant of Israel that will be saved.
- B. Verses 28-29 – During the tribulation period God will work on the earth for a short time. He will call a large remnant of saved Jews. They are the *seed* of verse 29. These saved Jews kept Israel from becoming like Sodom and Gomorrah down throughout the years past. (Note Romans 11:5.)
- C. Verses 30-33 – The Gentiles who were saved received righteousness because of their faith in Christ. The Jews did not receive righteousness because they tried to get it by the works of the Law. They refused to believe in Christ as their Messiah. Christ became their stumbling stone. Christ was the rock that insulted them. *Whosoever believeth in him* – they refused to do this to their own downfall. They failed to accept Christ as their Savior and Messiah and this is still true today for the most of the Jewish people.

**THE EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS**  
**EXAM - LESSON 16**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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1. The question the Jewish believers might have been asking in relation to Israel was: (Value 6 points)
    - a. why did the Jews crucify Christ?
    - b. does God still have a future plan for Israel?
    - c. will the nation of Israel repent?
  
  2. A major error regarding Israel and the Church being taught by some today is that: (Value 6 points)
    - a. the Church is the new Israel.
    - b. Israel is part of the Church today.
    - c. Jews cannot become members of the Church.
  
  3. The extreme statement Paul made which shows his deep love for Israel was that: (Value 5 points)
    - a. he was willing to be a messenger to Israel.
    - b. he was willing to go anywhere in the world to preach to the Jews.
    - c. he was willing to be cursed if it would mean the salvation of the Jews.
  
  4. Israel descended from: (Value 5 points)
    - a. Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.
    - b. Esau.
    - c. Ishmael.
  
  5. The word “adoption” in Romans 9:4 refers to the fact that: (Open Bible) (Value 6 points)
    - a. believers are adopted into the family of God.
    - b. God adopted the whole nation of Israel as His own.
    - c. Jews can be adopted into God’s family as well as Gentiles.
  
  6. The word “covenants” in Romans 9:4 refers to: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
    - a. guaranteed agreements God made with Israel.
    - b. all of God’s covenants with Israel that have been fulfilled.
    - c. the offerings the people made in their worship of God.
  
  7. The word “promises” in Romans 9:4 refers to: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
    - a. God’s promise to adopt believers into His family.
    - b. God’s promise to Israel about giving them their own land.
    - c. the Messianic promises given to the fathers of Israel.
  
  8. The “natural” Israel means those: (Value 6 points)
    - a. who are part of the nation of Israel by being born as Jews.
    - b. who are born Jews and have believed in Christ.
    - c. Jews who are part of the church.

9. Among Israel the true children of God are those who: (Value 5 points)
  - a. are born of Jewish parents.
  - b. believe in Jesus Christ as their Messiah.
  - c. keep all of the Old Testament laws.
10. God chose Jacob and not Esau because: (Value 5 points)
  - a. Jacob was a better person than Esau.
  - b. it was His sovereign will.
  - c. Jacob would become a shepherd, a type of Christ.
11. The statement in Romans 9:15, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy" indicates that: (Open Bible) (Value 6 points)
  - a. God will have mercy on some people.
  - b. God will be merciful to Jacob.
  - c. God's mercy is based on His sovereign will.
12. God raised up Pharaoh because: (Value 6 points)
  - a. He wanted to show His power over all earthly kings.
  - b. He was angry with Pharaoh.
  - c. Pharaoh did not obey God.
13. Concerning the will of God, Romans 9:19-23 tell us that: (Open Bible) (Value 6 points)
  - a. man must come to God in faith.
  - b. God's will is irresistible.
  - c. God's will is so hidden from the human mind that nobody can know it.
14. In Romans 9:23-24, those included as being vessels of mercy, prepared unto glory were: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
  - a. the believers in the Church age.
  - b. the believing Jews.
  - c. Paul himself and all saved Jews and Gentiles.
15. The remnant of Israel as mentioned in Romans 9:27 are: (Open Bible) (Value 5 points)
  - a. those Jews who will be saved.
  - b. the Jews living in Palestine in Paul's day.
  - c. all Jews who came back from the Babylonian captivity.
16. The future time when a large number of Israelites be will saved is during: (Value 6 points)
  - a. the Millennium.
  - b. the Tribulation.
  - c. the Church age.
17. According to Romans 9:30-33, the Jews failed to attain unto righteousness because: (Open Bible) (Value 6 points)
  - a. they would not listen to Paul.
  - b. they tried to gain righteousness by the works of the law.
  - c. they thought God already gave it to them because they were descendants of Abraham.
18. Israel's stumbling stone and rock of offense was: (Value 6 points)
  - a. the apostle Paul.
  - b. Pilate the Roman governor.
  - c. Jesus Christ.

**Decision Time**

I have learned that Israel rejected the righteousness God had available for them. I need the righteousness of God today. I understand that I am guilty before God, because I have rejected Him up to this point. I know I am bound for eternal punishment and separation from God. Knowing this, I am repenting of my sin and by the power of God I am forsaking them. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for my sin and rose again from the dead on the third day. I believe He is living in heaven at this time.

Therefore I \_\_\_\_\_ receive Him as my personal Savior on this  
\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_