



But What about Israel?

Lesson 12 | Romans 9:1-29

What Paul has argued so far is shocking. God is for you! But there is one more objection he knows needs to be tackled: what about Israel? God had made promises to Israel, had those been unfulfilled? And if they had been, what does that mean for the promises made to us?

The Problem of Israel's Rejection (1-6)

Paul's _____ Problem with Israel's Rejection (1-3)

Paul begins by sharing his burden for those who are fellow Israelites. Paul was just about willing to go to hell for the sake of his countrymen he was so burdened for them.

Paul's _____ Problem with Israel's Rejection (4-6)

The blessings of Romans 5-8 were supposed to be Israel's, yet Israel wasn't participating in the fulfillment of those promises. So how does the Old Testament, filled with promises of glory *for Israel*, fit with the present reality that *Israel* has rejected Christ?

Physical Descent Doesn't Guarantee Spiritual Belonging (6-13)

As Paul begins addressing wrong thinking about Israel, the first point he makes is that simply being Israelite doesn't automatically make you a genuine part of God's people.

God chose _____, not _____ (7-9)

The Jews were proud that they descended from Abraham, yet Paul reminds his readers not all sons of Abraham received the promise. God was specific – Isaac was the offspring through which the promises came, not Ishmael. Salvation isn't simply a matter of heritage.



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God chose _____, not _____ (10-13)

God's choice is not based on what you do. Paul points out that God chose Jacob, not Esau, and He made the choice before either of them were born and had done anything good or bad. God didn't choose Jacob because Jacob was a better guy. This was part of the problem with Israel. Israel tried to be good enough for God to save them by keeping the law they had been given (9:30-33).

God's Is Right in His Dealings with Israel (14-29)

God has the right to choose whom He will show _____ to (14-18)

Paul opens with a rhetorical question he knows many will be asking: Is God being unrighteous? While the exact meaning of this section is debated, Paul making is the point that God has the sovereign right to choose who gets shown His mercy. God shows has the right to show mercy because He is God. The fact that God shows mercy at all should humble us, not upset us because we think we or some other group deserve God's mercy.

God has the right to _____ those who reject Him (19-23)

But if God chooses, how can He hold responsible those who reject Him? After all, if God hardened Pharaoh, how can He hold Pharaoh accountable? While it is true that Pharaoh also hardened his own heart (Exodus 8:15, 23: 9:34), Paul's answer is that God is God and has the right to harden whomever He wants. God, as our great Creator, has the right to harden those who reject Him in order that He might show His glory more clearly in the mercy He shows to His people.

God has been _____ with His Word (24-29)

Paul strings together Old Testament passages to make the point that God's unexpected is consistent with the Old Testament. Paul uses the example of God's dealing with the northern ten tribes in Hosea 2:23 to establish the fact that God has the right to choose a new group to be His people. In Isaiah 10:22-23 and Isaiah 1:9 he shows that Israel has frequently been the object of God's righteous anger. Therefore, the bringing in of the Gentiles and Israel's hardness are both consistent with what we see in the Old Testament.

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