



# A Walk Through Romans

God's Past Dealings with Israel – (Rom 9)  
Vertical Life Church

# Introduction

- Paul has just concluded an 8 chapter description of the principles of the gospel
- How does Israel in general fit in this picture?
- Many fall into trap of total focus on NT and exclude OT
- God's story is one story.
- Paul will tell us how the gospel relates to Israel's past (ch 9), Israel's present (ch 10) and Israel's future (ch 11)



# Paul Agonizes for his People (1-3)

- Salvation by grace through faith is not another way to God; it is the only way
- Paul asserts 3 times that he is being honest (v1). Why?
- Followers of Christ were mostly Jews. Yet the Jews kept trying to stop Paul
- Plotted to kill him after his conversion (Acts 9:23); when he testified to disciples (Acts 9:29); incited people to persecute him (13:50); told lies about him (14:2); tried to stone him (14:5); did stone him (14:19); stirred up crowd in Berea (17:13); brought him before Romans in Corinth (18:12); plotted against him in Greece (20:3); started a riot in Jerusalem (21); called for execution (22); 40+ took an oath not to eat until he was dead (23:12,21)
- Nevertheless, Paul wishes he could take their place as accursed if they would believe (v3)(Exo 32:31-32)



# The Dilemma of the Jews (4-23)

- God made the Jews the keepers... (4-5)
  - Keepers of the lineage – sons of Abraham
  - Keepers of the glory – God dwelled in the Temple
  - Keepers of the covenants – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David
  - Keepers of the Torah – this is what made them a people
  - Keepers of the Temple service
  - Keepers of the promises
  - “Keepers” (origin) of the Messiah (Luk 2:32; Isa 60:1-3; John 1:11; Isa 5:1-7; Luk 19:41-44)



# The Dilemma of the Jews (4-23)

- God made the Jews the keepers... (4-5)
- God's blessings never came through flesh, but through promise (6-13)
  - Word of God (ie Old Testament) has not failed (6)
  - Isaac (promise) chosen over Ishmael (flesh) (7-9) (Gen 21:12; 18:10,14)
  - Jacob (promise) chosen over Esau (flesh) (10-13) (Gen 25:23-26)

# The Dilemma of the Jews (4-23)

- God made the Jews the keepers... (4-5)
- God's blessings never came through flesh, but through promise (6-13)
- God is Completely Just and Fully Sovereign (14-23)
  - God's justice, righteousness, and mercy (14-16)
    - Mercy & compassion are gifts from God (15)
    - They are obtained by trusting (believing), not by birth (Exo 33:13-19)
    - Not obtained by trying hard (16)



# The Dilemma of the Jews (4-23)

- God made the Jews the keepers... (4-5)
- God's blessings never came through flesh, but through promise (6-13)
- God is Completely Just and Fully Sovereign (14-23)
  - God's justice, righteousness, and mercy (14-16)
  - God's Sovereignty (17-18)

# The Example of Pharaoh (17-18)

- • Exo 4:21 God predicts a hardening
- • Exo 7:3 God predicts a hardening
- • Exo 7:13 State of Pharaoh's heart
- • Exo 7:14 State of Pharaoh's heart
- • Exo 7:22 State of Pharaoh's heart
- • Exo 8:15 Pharaoh hardens his own heart
- • Exo 8:19 State of Pharaoh's heart
- • Exo 8:32 Pharaoh hardens his own heart
- • Exo 9:7 State of Pharaoh's heart
- • Exo 9:12 God hardens Pharaoh's heart for the first time as He said he would. This is after the 6th plague
- • Exo 9:34 Pharaoh hardens his own heart. It says he sinned.
- • Exo 9:35 State of Pharaoh's heart, after he hardened it.
- • Exo 10:1 God hardens Pharaoh's heart after 7. Why?
- • Exo 10:20 God hardens Pharaoh's heart after 8
- • Exo 10:27 God hardens Pharaoh's heart after 9
- • Exo 11:10 Summary saying God hardened Pharaoh's heart for the purpose of showing forth miracles
- • Exo 14:4 God's intent to harden Pharaoh's heart to get him to chase after Israel
- • Exo 14:8 God hardens Pharaoh's heart to get him to chase Israel
- • Exo 14:17 God hardens the Egyptian army's hearts to get them to chase Israel into the Red Sea
- • 1 Sam 6:6 Pharaoh hardened his own heart



# The Example of Pharaoh (17-18)

- 3 Hebrew words translated *harden*
- Khaw-zak – to strengthen or fasten
- Khaw-shaw – to stiffen or toughen
- Ka-bed – heavy, grievous, burdensome

# Sovereignty, Predestination, and Choice

- Man's free will has been hotly debated issue through the centuries
  - One camp maintains that Israel and we have a choice to make (Deu 30:19; Mar 1:15)
  - The other camp says that even this choice is mandated by God (John 6:44)
- Much of the argument revolves around *foreknowledge* (Rom 8:39; 1 Pet 1:1-2)



# How Then Can God Blame Us (19-23)

- How are we blamed if God “*prepares*” some for destruction (22) and He “*prepares*” others for glory (23)
- *Prepare* in v22 means *adjust, finish, complete*
- *Prepare* in v23 means to *make ready beforehand*
- Focus of the passage is on Mercy rather on Wrath



# Understanding

*It is not, of course, that we can fully understand what God reveals about His sovereign election and predestination. It can only be accepted by faith, acknowledging its truth simply because God has revealed it to be true. As believers, we know that, in ourselves, we deserve only God's rejection and condemnation. But we also know that, for His own sovereign reasons, God has elected us to be His children and, in His own time and way, brought us to saving faith in Jesus Christ. On the other hand, we also know that our human will had a part in our salvation. Jesus said, "All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me." That is the choice of God's will. But Jesus immediately went on to say that "the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out" (Joh\_6:37). That is the choice of man's will, which God graciously accedes to for all who believe in His Son. – John MacArthur*



# We are Recipients of God's Merciful Choices (24-29)

- Those who have believed (both Jews and Gentiles) are the beneficiaries of God's merciful calling (24)
- Foretold by both Isaiah and Hosea among others
  - Due to Israel's infidelity, God would turn to another people (Hos 2:23; Hos 1:9-10)
  - Not the physical progeny of Abraham, but the remnant of faith would be saved (Isa 10:20-22)
- God will act quickly and thoroughly (v28) (Isa 28:22; 30:12-14; Dan 9:26-27)
- God is disgusted with Israel (v29) (Isa 1:9)



# Result of Israel's Lack of Faith (30-33))

- Jews relying on works of the Law make ironic opening for Gentiles
  - Gentiles did not pursue righteousness, yet found it by faith (30)
  - Jews pursuing righteousness, but by works, did not find it (31)
- The catalyst was the Messiah showing up as predicted in scripture (Psa 118:22; Isa 8:14-15; Isa 28:16)