

Romans 9
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ENCOURAGEMENT: Frustration = the Holy Spirit wanting to teach you something!

THE DETOUR

Chapters 1-8.....SALVATION – Why we need it. How do we get it? What we gain from it.

Chapters 12-16...SALVATION – How it should change us.

Chapters 9-11.....**ISRAEL** -its history (Ch. 9). Its present (Ch. 10). Its future (Ch. 11).

VERSES 1-5

1. Paul is anticipating another question. SO, what did he just say?
-NOTHING can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord
2. Paul is reacting to those Jews who are accusing him of abandoning his heritage.
3. Paul lists the benefits of being a Jew
-to acknowledge that they are God's chosen
-wondering how they missed God's point so badly
4. Ties back to **ROM 3:1-2**
-Benefits include the "w" word of God, but (more importantly for this chapter) the "W" Word of God...the line of the Messiah.
5. So, what is the question?
DID GOD BREAK HIS PROMISE?

NOTES:

VERSES 6-9 – The Thesis Statement/The First Story

- Hearing from Paul the PASTOR...speaking to the Jewish past of the church
- this explains all the OT references and the lack of details

The First Story – Israel, but not Israel

Characters - Isaac and Ishmael

OT references – Gen. 12:2-3, Gen 17:19

Paul's Point –

1. **Not all the descendants of Abraham were chosen to be part of God's purpose for Israel**
2. **God's promise wasn't just about Israel. It was about delivering the MESSIAH to the WORLD – THROUGH Israel.**

- Jesus and John the Baptist also called the Jews out for their mistaken assumptions
Matt 3:9-10, John 8:30-39
- Isaac – child of the covenant/promise, but
Ishmael – child of the flesh...humans trying to “work out” what God promised
Gen 17:17-21
- It’s always been about faith in the promise...
In the beginning with Abram (**Gen 15:16**)
And to all people (**Gal 3:26-29**)
- Paul makes the same point in **Gal 4:21-25, 28**
But makes it easier to understand by telling us up front that he’s using figurative language!

NOTES:

VERSES 10-13 - The Second Story

The Second Story – Not the Obvious Choice

Characters – Jacob and Esau

OT References – Gen 25:21-23

Paul’s Point –

- 1. God is choosing a bloodline for the Messiah – not one child over another**
 - 2. God doesn’t always choose the way man would**
 - 3. Not even the children of Abraham can stand in the way of God keeping His promise to the children of Abraham!**
- **JACOB I HAVE LOVED, BUT ESAU I HAVE HATED**
 - Same “hate” that Jesus uses in **Luke 14:26** – it’s about showing a preference
 - The quote is not from Genesis, but **Mal 1:3** (1300 years later)
 - Talking about the nations of Judah and Edom
 - God didn’t always “hate” Edom – **Deut. 23:7, Deut. 2:4-5**
 - Edom becomes cursed for standing against the line of Abraham, who were chosen to be the descendants of the Messiah. **Obad. 1:18**

VERSES 14-16 – The Third Story

The Third Story – Israel...right after the golden calf

Characters – God and Moses

OT References – Exodus 32-33

Paul's Point – God's sovereignty means He will also choose mercy if it serves His purpose of blessing the whole earth through Israel.

VERSES 17-18 – The Fourth Story

The Fourth Story – Let my people go...

Characters – Pharaoh

OT References – Exodus 3-14

Paul's Point – God, in His sovereignty, can even use people not just in spite of their rebellion – but **THROUGH** their rebellion!

- God warns Moses how it's going to happen (**Ex 4:21**), but the first "hardening" doesn't happen until plague #6!
- HARDEN can be translated as FIRM UP. To reinforce a decision that *has already been made*
- Same idea as **Rom. 1:24-25** "God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts..." And in **Psalms 81:11-14**, "I gave them up to their stubborn hearts..."
- This is why we are warned (**Heb 3:15**) TODAY, if you hear His voice...
- God's decisions have a PURPOSE (**Dan 2:21**)
- Moses and Pharaoh foreshadow the story of Jesus...
But in Jesus's story, the Jews themselves are the ones who are hardened.
- Jesus explains this in **Matt 13:11-13**
Isaiah foretells it in **Isa 6:9-10**
- The balance...**II Peter 3:9**

VERSES 19-21 – The Fifth Story

The Fifth Story – The Potter and the Clay

Characters – God, Israel

OT References – Isa 45:9, Jer 18:1-9

Paul’s Points–

1. God can use the clay however He thinks is best
 2. God can even use the hardened clumps of clay
 3. ISRAEL IS THE CLAY!!!
- Paul covers (basically) the same question in **Rom 3:5-8**. Both questions can be answered by **Rom 2:5**
 - **Isa 45:9** issues a warning to the “pots.”
 - The original story Paul referenced came from **Jer 18:1-9**
 - Apparently, the clay has some responsibility for the kind of clay/vessel it is
(**II Tim 2:20-21**)

VERSES 22-24 – The State of the Union

- Paul has been using Israel’s history to show them how God’s word has never failed. At this point, he starts to transition to the (then) CURRENT state of Israel.
- SO...what is the “state of the union”?
NOT GOOD!
- **PREPARED**
 1. Vessels prepared for destruction - repaired, adjusted: NOT ORIGINALLY MADE THAT WAY.
ALSO... Vessels themselves did the remaking!
 2. Vessels of mercy - prepared IN ADVANCE: made that way from the start
- Paul includes himself and the church – Jew AND Gentile – as vessels of mercy.
- So, who are they? The **Rom 8:29** people...knew, called, justified, glorified!

THIS IS IT!!! THIS IS THE PROMISE BEING FULFILLED!!!

VERSES 25-29 – And finally...

The Final Story – Hosea, Sodom and Gomorrah

Characters – God, the Gentiles, and the Remnant

OT References – Hosea 2:23, Hosea 1:10, Isaiah 10:22-23, Isaiah 1:9

Paul's Points – The plan started with Israel, but it never included ALL of Israel, and ALWAYS included the Gentiles!

MORE TO COME ON ISRAEL IN CHAPTERS 10 & 11

For them and for then:

God has never failed to keep His promises to Israel. Paul encourages the Jewish believers to look back at their history and see how those promises were kept...even when God's methods did not always match their expectations. God's faithfulness to His promises never depended on their faithfulness or on their understanding of what He was trying to accomplish.

For Us and for Always

He is God, and we are not! He chooses to deal with us in patience. But His sovereignty does not require Him to allow our hardness to endure forever. He wills and acts according to His plan. His sovereignty is unquestionable, but we can be comforted that His love and mercy for us are equally abiding!

For Me and for Now

It is easy to say that I believe in a sovereign God. It is much harder to live as though I do. Does my heart submit, even when God's ways don't seem fair, right, or understandable? He is tolerant of my struggle, but I must eventually come to the place where I can say...The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed is the name of the Lord!

Rom 3:1-2 What, then, is the advantage of being a Jew? Or what is the value of circumcision? Much in every way. First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

Gen 12:2-3 I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you; and all the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Gen 17:19 But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you are to name him Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

Matt 3:9-10 And do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise children for Abraham.

John 8:30-39 As Jesus spoke these things, many believed in Him. So He said to the Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” “We are Abraham’s descendants,” they answered. “We have never been slaves to anyone. How can You say we will be set free?” Jesus replied, “Truly, truly, I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. A slave does not remain in the house forever, but a son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. I know you are Abraham’s descendants, but you are trying to kill Me because My word has no place within you. I speak of what I have seen in the presence of the Father, and you do what you have heard from your father.” “Abraham is our father,” they replied. “If you were children of Abraham,” said Jesus, “you would do the works of Abraham. But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. Abraham never did such a thing. You are doing the works of your father.”

Gen 17:17-21 But God replied, “Your wife Sarah will indeed bear you a son, and you are to name him Isaac. I will establish My covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him. As for Ishmael, I have heard you, and I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He will become the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. But I will establish My covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you at this time next year.”.

Galatians 3:26-29 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed and heirs according to the promise.

Gen 15:16 Abram believed the LORD, and it was credited to him as righteousness.

Gal 4:21-25, 28 Tell me, you who want to be under the law, do you not understand what the law says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born through the promise. These things serve as illustrations, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present-day Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. **28.** Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise.

Genesis 25:21-23 Later, Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD heard his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. But the children inside her struggled with each other, and she said, “Why is this happening to me?” So Rebekah went to inquire of the LORD, and He declared to her: “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger.

Deut. 23:7 Do not despise an Edomite, for he is your brother.

Deut. 2:4-5 You will pass through the territory of your brothers, the descendants of Esau, who live in Seir. They will be afraid of you, so you must be very careful. Do not provoke them, for I will not give you any of their land, not even a footprint, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as his possession.

Obad 1:18 Then the house of Jacob will be a blazing fire, and the house of Joseph a burning flame; but the house of Esau will be stubble— Jacob will set it ablaze and consume it. Therefore, no survivor will remain from the house of Esau.” For the LORD has spoken

Ex 4:21 The LORD said to Moses, “When you return to Egypt, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will harden his heart so that he will not let the people go.

Romans 1:24-25 Therefore, God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because *they* exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen.

Psalms 81:11-14 But My people would not listen to Me, and Israel would not obey Me. So, I gave them up to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices. If only My people would listen to Me, if Israel would follow My ways, how soon I would subdue their enemies and turn My hand against their foes!

Heb 3:15 Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as you did in the rebellion.

Daniel 2:21 He changes times and seasons; he deposes kings and raises up others.

Matthew 13:11-13 “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.”

Isaiah 6:9-10 “Go and tell this people, ‘Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the hearts of this people calloused; deafen their ears and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.

II Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise as some understand slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance.

Rom. 3:5-8 But if our unrighteousness serves to show the righteousness of God, what shall we say? That God is unrighteous to inflict wrath on us? (I speak in a human way.) By no means! For then how could God judge the world? But if through my lie God’s truth abounds to his glory, why am I still being condemned as a sinner? And why not do evil that good may come?—as some people slanderously charge us with saying. Their condemnation is just.

Rom 2:5 But because of your hard and unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of wrath, when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.

Isaiah 45:9 Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’ or ‘Your work has no handles?’

Jer 18:1-9 This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: “Go down to the potter’s house, and there I will give you my message.” So, I went down to the potter’s house, and I saw him working at the

wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so, the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the LORD came to me. He said, "Can I not do with you, Israel, as this potter does?" declares the LORD. "Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, Israel. If at any time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be uprooted, torn down, and destroyed, and if that nation I warned repents of its evil, then I will relent and not inflict on it the disaster I had planned. And if at another time I announce that a nation or kingdom is to be built up and planted, and if it does evil in my sight and does not obey me, then I will reconsider the good I had intended to do for it.

II Tim 2:20-21 A large house contains not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay. Some indeed are for honorable use, but others are for common use. So if anyone cleanses himself of what is unfit, he will be a vessel for honor: sanctified, useful to the Master, and prepared for every good work.