

## Chosen People 1

God's Purpose of Election

*Romans 9:1-13*

*Memory Verses: Romans 9:11*

### MANUSCRIPT

**Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)** I know that we only have a handful of college sports fans in here. Me, Don, sometimes David. Well for those of you who don't care, let me let you in on the stupidity of college sports. In my opinion, they've ruined it. Now the players get paid ridiculous amounts of money and can transfer to any school at any time if that school wants to pay them more money. Some of these students are playing 6 years of college sports and each year it is with a completely different team. It's insane!

What's worse is that every year thousands of students will enter into the transfer portal with dreams of being brought onto a new and better school who will pay them more. But there is a problem... last year around 60% of all students who took a gamble and entered the portal were not picked up by another team and were forced to quit the sport they loved.

And many of us may say, that's sad, that's not fair. These kids give all they have for the sport and then they have to quit simply because they aren't chosen for a new team? A player can have incredible stats, tremendous talent, amazing potential, and not be chosen. Why? Because the team isn't necessarily choosing the best player available. They are building a specific team according to a specific vision.

Today we are beginning a new series called Chosen People that will guide us through Romans 9 to 11. These three chapters introduce us to a God who isn't merely reacting to history. He is directing it, orchestrating it. He is making choices that fit his vision and plan. He is writing a bigger story than any individual can fully comprehend. And that's where it gets uncomfortable. Because we love a God who saves us from our sins. But we are less comfortable with a God who chooses who that may be.

Make no mistake, Romans 9-11 is the theological deep end of the biblical swimming pool! Here we will come into contact with words like election, predestination, foreknowledge, sovereignty, and free will. We will deliberate over long held theological structures like Calvinism and Arminianism, Reformed or Free Will theology, Dispensationalism or Covenant theology. And we will look at some of the deepest biblical questions like, "do I choose God or does he choose me?" And, "has the church replaced Israel as God's chosen people?"

And each week we will have to make a choice... do we let these

issues divide us from one another or draw us closer? Will we become entrenched in specific camps or will we allow room for dialogue and open thought? Because you need to know something... these issues have been debated for centuries by smarter men than us and if they couldn't find the answers between them... we probably won't either. But what we can find is a greater understanding of who God is and who he wants us to be. Instead of dividing us further, let us make a commitment to allow these chapters to draw us closer. At the end of the day, we can and should be able to agree to disagree on all of these tertiary issues. What we cannot disagree on is our unity in Christ!

So let's get into it. Let's read **Romans 9:1-13**. When many people read this passage they ask, "alright, who gets saved?" But that's not what Paul is trying to answer here. He is asking, "has God's plan of salvation failed?" The issue isn't individual salvation, it's God's faithfulness. Israel has rejected Jesus. If God's chosen people can reject the Messiah, can God's plan really be trusted? And Paul's answer is crystal clear: God's promises and plans have never failed because they never depended on human effort. They have always depended on God's sovereign choice, on election. Today we need to see that God has a plan and uses election to achieve it. Our main point is this... **God's Purpose of Election Is to Ensure That His Plan For Humanity's Salvation Is Not Derailed By Humanity's Sin**. Today we will look at three instances where God's election, or choice, kept humanity from messing up the plan.

### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing to see here is that... **Israel's Disbelief Couldn't Stop God's Plan**. Look again at **vs. 1-6**. Paul begins with tears. He is broken. Why? Because his countrymen, his brothers, friends, even family, have rejected Jesus as the Messiah. **Do you guys remember the story of United Airlines Flight 93? They knew they were hijacked, they knew they were probably not going to make it, but somehow they were able to get phone calls out to their loved ones before they crashed. Can you imagine what it must have been like for those family members to know that the ones they loved the most were about to crash and perish?**

Paul knew that the people he loved the most were headed for spiritual death and eternal damnation... and it brought him great and unceasing anguish. In fact, he is so broken about it, that he makes one of the most outlandish statements in the Bible. Even though he just got finished telling us in **Romans 8** that nothing can separate believers from the love of Christ, he now says, that if it were possible, he would be cut off from Christ for his countrymen. Of course this is a hypothetical... he can't be cut off... cause nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus... But just to say this is incredible... Paul says that he would trade eternal glory and perfection in heaven with Jesus, the disciples, his saved

friends and family, the patriarchs, and all of the saints for eternal damnation... if God would cause all of Israel to believe and be saved. I don't know. Would you make that trade? Eternal, never ceasing torment, cut off from God... so others would be saved? Who would you make that trade for? I would gladly give my life in this life to save almost anyone... but I don't think I would give my eternal life up for even everyone. And yet Paul says, I'll make that trade. That's how much he loves them!

Paul reminds us of just how silly it is that they have rejected Jesus as the messiah. They have literally been spoonfed every little thing that they could ever want or need in order to recognize the Messiah. They were given every covenant blessing and promise. They were sent every patriarch and prophet. They had the law to keep them in line and the sacrifices to keep them right standing before God. They had the stories, the prophecies, and understood how each one of these pointed to the coming Christ. And yet... they rejected him when he came. Why? Because when he revealed himself, they were unwilling to humble themselves to his lordship. They wanted to hold on to their own thrones.

And so, the question may arise. If God's own chosen people have rejected the Messiah, then has God's plan of redemption failed? And, of course, the answer is... no! Why? Because God's plan is not contingent on humanity's compliance. God's plan will be fulfilled through his sovereign election and choice regardless of our failure. Paul answers it this way. God has other chosen people who aren't natural citizens of Israel. Though Israel has failed to accept Christ there are others who God has elected to take up the banner and carry on the plan of redemption. In fact, look at **verse 6** in detail. He specifically says, not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Meaning... Israel, the chosen people, who God planned to bring the blessing of salvation to the world, is more than just those who are genetically and ethnically Israelites. And of course he is speaking of us. Gentiles who have accepted Christ as the messiah, the Church of Jesus Christ! We too are Israel! And through us God's plan will continue unabated!

Over the past 5 years my kids have really gotten into chess. They even watch Chess Masters online to learn strategy. And what I've learned watching these guys is simple. A chess master is willing to lose some pieces in order to win the match. Because he knows that when one piece goes down, it opens a brand new pathway to victory. **When Israel failed, it merely revealed a new path to victory.** This is why he has elected and chosen to use us for such a time as this! God's plan can not be stopped... because even when humanity fails, God's already 20 steps ahead. **God's Purpose of Election Is to Ensure That His Plan For Humanity's Salvation Is Not Derailed By Humanity's Sin .**

The second thing to see here is that... **Abraham's**

**Disobedience Couldn't Hurry God's Promise.** Look again at **vs. 7-9**. Paul further illustrates his point by going back to Abraham. If all of Abraham's children were chosen then what about Ishmael? God has chosen the redemptive plan to run through Isaac's lineage. Does this mean that God doesn't love and care for Ishmael? Of course not. He sends an angel to take care of him in the wilderness. He causes him to become a mighty nation as well. All it means is that God did not choose Ishmael for this purpose. The promise wasn't to Ishmael!

And the whole story illustrates that, once again, God's plan can't be messed up by us. You know the story. God promises Abraham a son even though He and Sarah are too old to have children. But they trust him and wait, and wait, and wait. But eventually they get tired of waiting and they decide to take matters into their own hands. Abraham sleeps with Hagar, his wife's mistress, and then conceives Ishmael. He and Sarah thought they could hurry God's promise along a little bit! You know, sometimes God just needs a little bit of help to get the ball rolling!

Do you ever think you are smarter than the GPS? The GPS gives you the route, tells you how long it will take, and then sets you on your way. But maybe you are like, I know a faster way... a shortcut. So you go another route not suggested by the GPS. But what you weren't counting for was the construction stop along that way. The GPS already considered that and that's why they didn't have you go that way in the first place. The bottom line is this... when you try to take shortcuts with God's promises... it actually takes longer! Get this... **God doesn't need our shortcuts.** Abe and Sarah simply didn't trust God to come through so they created a situation... a messy situation. God's plan was one nation through Isaac... not two nations; one through Isaac and one through Ishmael. Let's see... how's that playing out today I wonder? Not good. But again, did this derail the plan? Nope... not at all... and of course... in the sovereignty of God it was always a part of the plan! The point.. God's promises will always come through in his time... you can't hurry it! **God's Purpose of Election Is to Ensure That His Plan For Humanity's Salvation Is Not Derailed By Humanity's Sin .**

The last thing to see here is that... **Rebekah's Deception Couldn't Change God's Purpose.** Look again at **vs. 10-13**. Paul uses one more example... Rebekah. And of course, you know how this one goes too. Rebekah knows that Jacob is the one who God has chosen... but she again wants to hurry the process and manipulate the plan! She clothes Jacob like Esau and has him steal Esau's blessing. It's devious, it's manipulative, it's deception! It certainly isn't trusting in the plan or the promises of God. And of course.. Jacob is implicit in all of it for going along with it.

But what happens... even though Jacob is a scoundrel, and even though his mother is a deceiver and trickster... God still chooses Jacob! Why? Because it was God's plan. Because God chose him and elected

him... not because of his deeds or works or effort or sin... but simply because that was the route God chose to work through. **Human sin may complicate God's plan, but it can never cancel God's purpose!** And this is God's purpose of election. That he would do what he wills regardless of how good we are or how bad we are... so that we don't receive the glory when the plan, and promise work out in the end. Look at our key verse, **verse 11** one more time! It's not about how good or bad we are. It's about God's sovereign choice. It's about what he elects and who he elects to use for his purposes and plans. It's not about humanity... it's about Him who calls! **God's Purpose of Election Is to Ensure That His Plan For Humanity's Salvation Is Not Derailed By Humanity's Sin .**

### Application

Think about what we've seen here today. Israel tried to reject the Messiah... God's plan keeps moving. Abraham tried to speed up the promise... God's plan keeps on moving. Rebekah and Jacob tried to manipulate the outcome. God's plan keeps on moving. And I assure you of this... we will mess up. We will disbelieve and disobey and deceive... but if we are in Christ, you can be assured that you are chosen and regardless of what mess you make... God will still continue to move his plan of redemption through you!

### Conclusion

So many of us will choose to dwell on **verse 13**; Jacob I loved but Esau I hated. First, this is taken from a verse in Malachi and is referring to the nation of Israel which came from Jacob and the nation of Edom which came from Esau. Secondly, hate doesn't mean hate. It means not chosen. Sometimes not being chosen really hurts. If someone doesn't choose you it can feel like hate. Anyone who has had someone break up with them knows what I'm talking about. God didn't choose Esau, he chose Jacob. God didn't choose Edom, he chose Israel. And none of them deserved it... but that wasn't our choice... it was God's! And that's a good thing... because **when God chooses... his plans, promises, and purposes are fulfilled!** In the end, God's election and choices led to the salvation of the world through Jesus Christ. And we still are a part of that plan today! God's plans can't be derailed by our mistakes... so just go with the plan! **God's Purpose of Election Is to Ensure That His Plan For Humanity's Salvation Is Not Derailed By Humanity's Sin .**