



The Choice is Yours
Romans 9:30-11:36

In Romans 9, Paul made a strong argument for the sovereignty of God. Next Paul focuses on the other side of the coin. Anyone who believes in Jesus will be saved.

The Israelites stumbled over Jesus Christ (9:30-10:4)

The Gentiles who historically cared very little about God were receiving righteousness. The Israelites who cared a great deal about righteous living were not. Why? The Israelites stumbled over the truth of the gospel. Righteousness comes through faith in Jesus Christ. They saw no need for Jesus because they thought they could obtain righteousness themselves. Therefore, they rejected Him and continued in their lost state.

God's Gracious Offer (10: 5-15)

The Israelites didn't have to remain in their state of unbelief. The word of God was near them and all they had to do to choose life was accept the Word. Anyone who believes and confesses that Jesus is Lord, will be saved. Paul quotes Isaiah 28:16 and Joel 2:32 to remind us that anyone who calls on the name of the Lord and trusts in Him will be saved.

Israel's Rejection of God's Offer (10:16-29)

Although the Israelites heard the message of Jesus Christ, most had rejected God's gracious offer. Paul quotes OT passages as proof. Isaiah knew few would believe his message of a suffering savior. (v. 16 – Isaiah 53:1). Because of creation and God's mighty works the Israelites have heard God's message (v.18 – Psalm 19:4). Moses and Isaiah prophesied that the God would seek out Gentiles. (v.19, 20 – Deut 32:21 & Isaiah 65:1). God was not withholding salvation from the Israelites. He held out His hands imploring them to turn to Him (v. 21 – Isaiah 65:2).

God has always kept a remnant of believing Israelites (11:1-10)

Paul points to his own experience as an Israelite who believes in Jesus Christ and to God's comments to Elijah as proof that God has always kept a remnant of believing Israelites. Those who reject God are hardened in their disbelief as Paul points out by quoting Deut 29:4; Isaiah 29:10 and Psalm 69:22,23.

God has a purpose in Israel's unbelief (11:1-24)

Israel's unbelief serves a purpose in God's plan. Because they "stumbled" the Gentiles have received salvation. The Gentile's salvation also means that Israelites would become jealous and eventually they will come to Christ. Paul then uses two illustrations to explain his point. The first is a lump of dough and the "first fruits." The second is a cultivated olive tree. The olive tree was an OT symbol of the nation Israel (Jer 11:16, 17; Hos 14:4-6).

God will bring salvation to Israel (11:25-36)

While Israel is temporarily set aside, God is saving the Gentiles until the full number of them have been saved. Then, Paul says God will save Israel. Paul concludes chapters 9-11 with a doxology of praise to God for His wisdom.