

The Way

Maturity of the Church

Lesson 26: God's Sovereign Control Over Israel's Past, Present, and Future

We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons

Review (Where We've Been)

In Romans 1-8, Paul convinced us about man's need for forgiveness and God providing salvation through the work of Jesus Christ.

Here is a reminder of our path since beginning our study of Romans...

- *We are far from God - **Condemnation** (Romans 1-3)*
- *We are made right with God through faith - **Justification** (Romans 4-5)*
- *We are free from the power and penalty of sin through the indwelling Holy Spirit - **Sanctification** (Romans 6-8)*

Last week we learned that we are secure in Christ's love for now and eternity.

Romans 8:38 (NLT) And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. **39** No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

BIG Idea

Now, in Romans 9-11, Paul deals with a BIG question his readers may ask, *especially considering Israel's current spiritual condition.*

How can I be secure in God's love and salvation when it seems that Israel was once loved and saved, but now seems to be rejected and cursed?

The next three chapters deal with Israel's spiritual history...

- Israel's Past Election (Romans 9)
- Israel's Present Rejection (Romans 10)
- Israel's Future Restoration (Romans 11)

Paul's purpose is to explain how God could set aside His chosen people (Israel) and save the Gentiles, and how He will restore the nation of Israel at some future date.

Information (What You Need to Know)

Tracing God's History with Israel...

▪ Israel's Past Election (Romans 9)

- ✓ God chose Israel to be His people, and through them to make Himself known
Romans 9:4 (NLT) They are the people of Israel, chosen to be God's adopted children. God revealed his glory to them. He made covenants with them and gave them his law. He gave them the privilege of worshiping him and receiving his wonderful promises. **5** Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned.

“The election discussed in Romans 9-11 is *national* and *not individual*. To apply all the truths of these chapters to the salvation or security of the individual believer is to miss their message completely.” – Warren Wiersbe

- ✓ Israel's election as a nation raises questions...

- Is God unfair?

Romans 9:14 (NLT) Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! **15** For God said to Moses, “I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.” **16** So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

“None of us deserve God's mercy, and none can claim that God is unfair for His choice of Israel or for His bypassing of other nations.”

- Why does God blame people for not responding if they can't resist His will?

Romans 9:19 (NLT) Well then, you might say, “Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?” **20** No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, “Why have you made me like this?”

“Man, the created one, has no right to question God, the Creator.” – Bible Knowledge Commentary

▪ Israel's Present Rejection (Romans 10)

- ✓ Israel tried to get right with God by keeping the law (which was impossible)
Romans 10:1 (NLT) Dear brothers and sisters, the longing of my heart and my prayer to God is for the people of Israel to be saved. **2** I know what enthusiasm they have for God, but it is misdirected zeal. **3** For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law. **4** For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

- ✓ Paul made it clear that there is only one way to salvation – through Christ
 - Salvation comes through acknowledging to God that Christ is God and believing in Him (His death for sin, burial, and resurrection)

Romans 10:9 (NLT) If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. **10** For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.
 - Salvation is available to all who believe

Romans 10:11 (NLT) As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced [*ashamed*].” **12** Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. **13** For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”
 - Salvation is accomplished through...

Romans 10:14 (NLT) But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? **15** And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is why the Scriptures say, “How beautiful are the feet of messengers who bring good news!”

 - Someone being sent to speak the gospel
 - Someone believing the gospel
 - Someone calling on Jesus to save them

■ **Israel’s Future Restoration (Romans 11)**

- ✓ God has not rejected His own people

Romans 11:1 (NLT) I ask, then, has God rejected his own people, the nation of Israel? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham and a member of the tribe of Benjamin. **2** No, God has not rejected his own people, whom he chose from the very beginning.

“Although the majority of Israelites had refused to believe that Jesus was the Deliverer God had sent into the world, there were those who did believe. Paul assured the Roman believers that God is still interested in individual Jews and saves each one who believes.” – Firm Foundations
- God’s plan for Israel includes their future restoration

“In the future, Gentiles will reject the truth and God will turn away from them. The Jews will then realize that they sinned in refusing to accept Jesus as Deliverer. Israel will turn to Jesus in repentance and faith. God will accept Israel back and use them to do His work here on earth.” – Firm Foundations