

Subject: “Israel and Divine Sovereignty”

Scripture Reading: **Romans 9:1-13 (NKJV)**

Roamin’ Thru Romans-Part 37

Remember, the Book of Romans is primarily about the Gospel though it includes many individual “doctrines and duties” related to the Gospel (wrath of God, Justification, Grace, Righteousness, Sovereignty, Service, Unity...).

Synopsis of Romans: We now move to the THIRD section of the Book of Romans:

1. **Chapter** 1—4 The Gospel Reveals God’s Righteousness
2. **Chapters** 5—8 The Gospel Creates a New Humanity
3. **Chapters** 9—11 The Gospel fulfills God’s Promise to Israel (Past, Present, and Future).
4. **Chapters** 12—16 The Gospel Unifies the Church

This morning, we begin our study of chapter 9:

Now let me remind you about Romans 9:

Romans 9 may be divided into 13 major parts as follows:

- A. **Israel and Divine Sovereignty (Romans 9:1-13) (today)**
- B. Independence of Divine Sovereignty (Romans 9:14-23)
- C. Illustrations of Divine Sovereignty (Romans 9:24-33)

Introduction: Paul begins his treatment of the sovereignty of God by looking at how it favored the Jews.

The Jews had no trouble with Divine sovereignty when it favored them; it was only when it favored the Gentiles that the Jews complained.

With that in mind, let’s get started...

I. **The Prayer for Israel (Romans 9:1-3)**

Though the *sovereignty* of God gave Israel first choice, yet Israel rejected Christ.

This rejection weighs heavily upon Paul, who himself is a Jew, and prompts his prayer for the Jews.

- **The sincerity of the prayer (Romans 9:1).**

Romans 9:1 (NKJV)

¹ I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit,

The extremeness of Paul's prayer (wishing himself accursed) called for an explanation of his sincerity.

The explanation is threefold.

"I tell the truth in Christ; I am not lying." Paul is speaking the truth.

"My conscience also bearing witness." His conscience agrees with his heart.

"...Bearing me witness in the The Holy Spirit."

Paul can appeal to the Holy Spirit for proof of his sincerity.

- **The sorrow in the prayer** ([Romans 9:2](#)).

Romans 9:2 (NKJV)

² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.

Note it was sorrow of "heart" not just emotions. These were no crocodile tears!

- **The supplication in the prayer** ([Romans 9:3](#)).

Romans 9:3 (NKJV)

³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,

First, the passion in the supplication. *"I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren"*

This is the passion exhibited by Moses ([Exodus 32:32](#)) and fulfilled literally by Christ ([Galatians 3:13](#)).

Galatians 3:13 (NKJV)

¹³ Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, *"Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"*),

Second, the purpose of the supplication. *"Accursed from Christ for my brethren my countryman [kinsmen] according to the flesh"* ([Romans 9:3](#)).

Paul greatly desires the salvation of his brethren according to the flesh (the Jews).

II. **The Privileges of Israel** ([Romans 9:4, 5](#))

Paul enumerates the privileges of the Israelites which came from God's sovereignty, but which only aggravates their guilt in rejecting Christ.

Eight privileges are noted here.

Romans 9:4 (NKJV)

⁴ who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises;

- **The selection of Israel.** *"To whom pertaineth the adoption"* ([Romans 9:4](#)).
- **The splendor for Israel.** *"The glory"* ([Romans 9:4](#)).
- **The security of Israel.** *"Covenants"* ([Romans 9:4](#)).
- **The statutes for Israel.** *"The law"* ([Romans 9:4](#)).
- **The sanctuary for Israel.** *"The service"* ([Romans 9:4](#)).
- **The swearing for Israel.** *"The promises"* ([Romans 9:4](#)).

Hebrews 6:13 (NKJV)

¹³ For when God made a promise to Abraham, because He could swear by no one greater, He swore by Himself,

- **The sires of Israel.** "The fathers" (Romans 9:5).

Romans 9:5 (NKJV)

⁵ of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ *came*, who is over all, *the* eternally blessed God. Amen.

- **The Savior from Israel.** "According to the flesh Christ came" (Romans 9:5).

This is the greatest of the blessed privileges of Israel which came through God's sovereignty. From their seed came Jesus Christ, the Savior and the Messiah.

III. **The Posterity of Israel (Romans 9:6-9)**

The posterity of Israel is clarified here both in the spiritual sense and in the earthly sense.

- **The true posterity.**

The true posterity of Israel is defined.

First, the defending by the Word. "It is not that the Word of God has taken no effect..."

Romans 9:6 (NKJV)

⁶ But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel,

Second, the defining by the Word. "They are not all Israel, who are of Israel" (Romans 9:6).

The fact that not all Jews receive Christ simply bears out the truth that the spiritual line of Abraham's descendants does not include all the physical descendants.

- **The temporal posterity.**

Romans 9:7-9 (NKJV)

⁷ nor *are* they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called."

⁸ That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

⁹ For this *is* the word of promise: "At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son."

To illustrate this truth of the distinction between physical and spiritual seed, Paul reminds the Jews that not all of Abraham's seed are considered the people of God. "But, In Isaac shall your seed be called."

Though Abraham had many more sons than Isaac (Genesis 16 and 25), this son of Abraham and Sarah was the only seed of Abraham to be given the covenant (Genesis 17:21).

IV. **The Prediction About Israel (Romans 9:10-12)**

Romans 9:10-12 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

¹² it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger."

This prediction follows up the argument in the previous verses that not all the seed of Abraham are given the covenant.

The same is true with Isaac.

In choosing which son would be the heir, the sovereignty of God is very evident.

Sovereignty determined the choices.

3 things are noteworthy here...

- ***The moment of the prediction.***

Vv:10-11 (NKJV)

¹⁰ And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac

¹¹ (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls),

- ***The men in the prediction.*** "When Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac... the children not yet being born" (Romans 9:10, 11).

The men involved in the prediction were the twin sons of Isaac and Rebekah, namely, Jacob and Esau.

- ***The matter in the prediction.*** "The elder shall serve the younger" (Romans 9:12; cp. Genesis 25:23).

Before the boys were even born, God's sovereignty predicted their status which predicted their relationship with the Divine covenant and Israel.

Esau was the elder and Jacob the younger, but Jacob was selected by God to be the inheritor of the covenant.

V. The Passion for Israel (Romans 9:13)

The passion of God for Israel is stated here.

Romans 9:13 (NKJV)

¹³ As it is written, "*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*"

Allow me to make 3 observations here:

- ***The Scripture in the passion.*** "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Romans 9:13).

The Scripture is the authority for discerning whom God would love. It is still the authority.

Sinners can rejoice in that they are loved of God to the extent that God sent Christ to die for them.

- ***The Sovereignty in the passion.*** "As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated" (Romans 9:13).

The affection of God for Jacob and Esau differed greatly in God's sovereignty.

The sovereign grace of God determined where love and hate would be applied.

There was no human merit involved.

• ***The selection in the passion.*** "As it is written, *Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated*" (Romans 9:13).

The affection of God for Jacob and Esau differed greatly.

Some have been perturbed by this verse...wondering how God could hate Esau.

[**Illus**]!!!"

How could God love Jacob?

He was such a cheat and scoundrel. The answer is the sovereign grace of God.

[**Illus**] Danita and I went **fishing** last week...

Closing: Do you know this Jesus that the Book of Romans so clearly teaches us about?

If not, will you accept Him today?

Will you make Him your "choice" today seeing that He has already "chosen" you?

When you "choose" to repent and receive Christ you will then understand that He had already chosen you!

So, we will stop here for today!

*Beach, B. MBE, 7/28/24 a.m. WHBC, Dalton

*This outline borrowed from: *Analytical Bible Expositor – Romans*. Some other portions of this sermon were taken from various sources and commentaries.