

Romans Chapter 9

Paul's great sorrow and heaviness for the Jews. Continual grief in his heart. His people, the Chosen People, were enemies of the Gospel. They particularly hated him because of who he was and what he did.

V 3-5

For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen.

He "could" wish. He undergoes misery and trials to witness to them first. ICor 4:13, Acts 22:22. They say he should not be allowed to live. He is willing to bear all this in order to evangelize them. He could suffer loss of fellowship with believers to save the Jews. He explains his relationship to them - brethren according to the flesh.

And they have such a special relationship to God. Abraham's seed. Adopted - Ex 4:22 - Israel is My son - tells Pharaoh. Glory - the Ark, Mercy seat, Shekinah. The covenants, the giving of the Law. Unique people. Ps 147: 19-20 - he didn't deal with any other nation like this. Deut 4:7-8 - no other nation has His Law. Service of God - the Temple, sacrifices, priests, feasts, institutions. Other nations were serving idols. Promises - Messiah.

The Fathers were Abraham, Isaac, Jacob. Then all the great leaders. Then Paul adds Christ as the main reason for this. Also that he is God and Man. Seed of Abraham (Heb 2:16). Talks about both of His natures.

V 6-9 : the fact that most of the Jews rejected Messiah did not invalidate God's promises. God's Word always had effect Is 55. It was not God's failure. He didn't mean necessarily that all the biological seed of Abraham, of the flesh, would have this. eg Ishmael and Esau.

Many boasted that they were descended from Abraham but did not look forward to the new covenant. Jesus addressed that- Mat 3:9, John 8: 38-39. Grace is not in the blood. The Promise comes through God's Sovereignty and Grace.

Isaac was conceived through faith - Heb 11:11. Now Gentiles also included. All in the Plan.

Election. Sovereign.

Loves Jacob and " hates" Esau. Actually their descendants. God can work out plans according to His Sovereignty.

Tells Moses He will have mercy on whom He wants Ex 33:19. Pharaoh's heart hardened to show God's Glory. Ex 9:16.

Sovereignty compared to potters- clay doesn't have the right to say why did you make me this way. We can't say to God why did You make us this way. Similar to Jeremiah 18:6 for nation of Israel.

V 22-24-- He puts up with Israel, sinners etc with longsuffering then has to show His Wrath. The noble vessels are the saved, the fruits, His Glory. Now Gentiles are also included in this. Plan of Salvation.

V 25- 26 -

I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." Hosea 2:23

"And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." Hosea 1:10

Gentiles coming into the Kingdom foretold. He will call them His people. They will be called sons of God. We talked about that in Ch 8.

Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. Isa 10:22 A remnant is saved.

He will finish the work. Gospel will go out far from the Land. To other people.

Lord of Hosts - Almighty Power and infinite Majesty. He leaves a seed. If not it would be like Sodom and Gomorrah.

V 30- What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith; but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.

Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.

As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame." Isa 28:16 and Isa 8:14. (read)

Different way of seeking. Gentiles were not following Law, did not know their guilt. Their conversion magnified Grace. Found by those that did not seek Him Is 65:1. Came by faith- did not come to Judaism first. Submitted to Christ and the Gospel.

Most of the Jews embraced the types and shadows and not the Substance. Didn't seek in the right way.

Thought that the end of the Law was its observance. Slaves to the Law. Christ became the stumbling stone.