

Romans 9 - God's Sovereignty

(Scripture Here)

Introduction:

1. Chapter 9- 11 can be difficult chapters that pertain largely to the Children of Israel.
 1. Paul's goal in these chapters is to prove this point: God is a just God and his present dealings with Israel is inline with his historic dealings.
 2. God is Sovereign overall. As the creator God, he is in control.
2. Paul essentially says in chapter 9, "look, you were ok with God's election when it favored you. Now it has been extended to others, will you call foul?"

I. Paul's love for Israel

- A. (Romans 9:1-5)
- B. Paul Loves his people.
 1. Paul is a jew!
 - a) He was a Benjamite, named after Israel's first king.
 - b) He was well educated — "Feet of Gamaliel."
 - (1) Gamaliel was the grandson of Hillel (schools of Hillel and Shammai). Gamaliel's influence allowed his grandson to be the champion of rabbinic Judaism.
 - c) He was passionate and well-respected.
 2. One of the great challenges that the Jews faced was the change that the gospel required.
 - a) Jews lived very distinct lives. We are fond of our own cultural heritages.
 - (1) Ill. "Cheeseburgers" and Israel.
 - (2) Ill. Imperial vs. metric units. Fahrenheit vs. Celsius
- C. Israel has played a critical role in the fulfillment of God's Will.
 1. There is a tendency among some to vilify the Jews.
 2. They had been blessed:
 - a) They were the people of promise.
 - b) They were adopted in as sons.

II. God's Election of Israel

- A. (Romans 9:6-29)
- B. The Gospel has not failed.
 1. The reality is that not all Jews will accept the salvation God extends.
- C. Spiritual Israel vs. Physical Israel
 1. The Israelites had misunderstood. Their uniqueness was spiritual, not physical.
- D. Not all are children of promise:
 1. Consider Abraham
 - a) Many sons — Ishmael, Isaac, Medan, Midian, (Gen 25:1-2)
 - b) The promised spiritual Israel, would come from Isaac.
 2. Consider Jacob and Esau

- a) God Chose Jacob to be the heir of the promise, not Esau
 - (1) This is not a result of their works!
- E. God Loves Jacob, and Hated Esau:
 - 1. (Malachi 1:2-3)
 - 2. Does God hate Esau, the individual?
 - a) God loves all - John 3:16
 - (1) God “*disfavored*” Esau in contrast to his “*Favor*” of Jacob.
 - 3. What is God *Favoring* Jacob for and *disfavoring* Esau against?
 - a) Not Salvation
 - (1) Salvation was not only extended to the physical children of Abraham.
 - (2) Salvation was for those outside of the OT as well,
 - (a) Proselytes? God Fearers? Ex. Job, Ethiopian Eunuch, Cornelius?
 - b) This election is the fulfillment of the promise, Jesus. The one who blesses all nations.
- F. God has the right to choose as he wishes.
 - 1. He is the potter, his creation is the Clay.
 - a) Consider...
 - (1) Korah and Moses
 - (2) John the Baptist
 - (3) David
 - b) These are roles to fulfill. Not pertaining to salvation.
 - 2. God has chosen who will be saved:
 - a) Those who are in Christ.
 - (1) Ephesians 1, Romans 6, Galatians
 - b) He has not chosen individuals for salvation or condemnation
 - (1) (John 3:16; 1 John 2:2; Acts 10:34-35)

III. Israel and the Gospel

- A. (Romans 9:30-10:4)
- B. The Gentiles are righteous because they have faith in Christ.
- C. You Jews cannot achieve righteousness by your works.

Conclusion:

- 1. Paul’s point here is this: God has used Israel in a special way in the past. You Israelites had no issue with that when you were the ones chosen. But now, God has extended his election to the gentiles. Why are you calling foul? It is not unjust of God to do with his creation as he sees fit.