

Recap of Chapters 1-8 and Introduction to Chapters 9-11
Romans 9:1-5

A. Review of 1-8

1. Greetings, thanks, praise and purpose (1:1-17)
2. God's judgment and wrath (1:18-3:20)
 - a. God's wrath is poured out on all mankind because they rejected Him and His ways
 - b. God's judgment is impartial meaning that He judges Jews and gentiles alike and by the same standard
 - c. No one, whether Jew nor gentile, is righteous—all are condemned because of sin
3. Justification (3:21-5:21)
 - a. Justification, being made right before God, is by faith alone in Jesus Christ
 - b. Justification has always been by faith alone, even in the Old Testament (Abraham is just one example)
 - c. Justification results in peace with God
4. Sanctification (6:1-8:17)
 - a. As children of God, we are now dead to sin
 - b. We are dead to the Law (rules based living)
 - c. But, we are alive to and in the Spirit
5. Glorification and Assurance (8:18-39)
 - a. The suffering of this present life cannot compare to the glory and glorification that awaits us
 - b. Our salvation is secure and nothing can separate us from the love of God

B. So, where does Israel fit into all of this?

1. As Paul lays out God's redemptive plan, and reflects on Israel's disobedience and rejection of THEIR savior, it begs the question, Where does Israel fit into all this? Has God forgotten, or worse yet, rejected Israel?
2. Look at the promises God made to Israel:
 - a. Genesis 12:1-3 (Calling of and promises to Abraham)
 - b. Genesis 17:1-8 (Promises repeated to Abraham)
 - c. Genesis 26:1-5 (Promises repeated to Isaac)
 - d. Genesis 35:9-12 (Promises made to Jacob, renamed Israel)
 - e. Exodus 3:1-17, esp. 6-7 (calling of Moses)
 - f. Exodus 6:1-8 (Promises to Israel)
 - g. Exodus 13-18 (God delivers Israel from Egypt, protects them in the wilderness, etc.)
 - h. Exodus 20:1-17, esp. 2-6 (God gives Israel the Law, His statutes and ways)
 - i. God then demonstrates His love and loyalty to Israel through the rest of the OT—he takes them into the Promise Land, conquers their enemies, establishes them as a great and powerful nation, endures with patience their disobedience, disciplines them through exile, returns them to the Promise land, sends them prophets and preachers, etc.
 - j. Finally, He makes good on His ultimate promise and sends them a savior, His own Son, Jesus Christ

3. But, in Paul's day, and even today, it appears that God has abandoned Israel, cast them aside in favor of the Church (e.g. replacement theology)

C. However, God's plan for Israel is still in play and Paul reveals this in chapters 9-11!

1. God's Word—His promises to Israel—hasn't failed (9:6-29)
2. Salvation and righteousness are still available to Israel (9:30-10:21)
3. God has not cast Israel aside, but has preserved a remnant (11:1-10)
4. Israel's disobedience and hardening are temporary and have resulted in salvation for the gentiles (11:11-36)

D. Paul longed for the salvation of Israel (9:1-5)

1. Look at how Paul describes his grief over Israel: **"I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart."** (2)
 - a. **"great sorrow"** (Greek *lupe*): mental pain, anxiety, distress, to be overcome with intense grief
 - 1) It's the kind of grief of mental distress that is used to describe child birth
 - 2) It can cause mental and physical exhaustion (used by Luke in 22:45 to describe why the disciples fell asleep when Jesus was praying in the garden before his arrest)
 - b. **"unceasing anguish"** (Greek *odune*): a state of severe emotional anxiety and stress; outside of the NT is used of physical pain
 - c. Paul's anguish was so intense that if it would have been possible to give up his own salvation for the sake of Israel, he would have done it (3a): **"For I could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh,"**
2. Paul sites two reasons for his anguish (3b-5):
 - a. The first is that he was a Israelite himself:
 - 1) The Israelites were his **"brethren"**:
 - a) Greek *adelphos* can be used of a literal brother
 - b) But here Paul likely is using the term to refer to those with whom he shares the both the same socio-religious heritage and nationality
 - c) We do something similar here when we refer to other Christians as our brothers and sisters
 - 2) But, they were more than this; they were his flesh and blood: **"my kinsmen according to the flesh"**
 - b. Just as important to Paul as his kinship with Israel, was the fact that Israel was at the heart and center of God's redemptive plan (4-5):
 - 1) There were **"Israelites"**—physical descendants of Jacob (renamed Israel)
 - 2) They were God's own people: **"to whom belongs the adoption as sons"**
 - a) Exodus 4:22 (Israel was God's "firstborn")

- b) All believers are sons of God (Romans 8:15), but the first born received a double portion of the inheritance
- 3) God's glory was revealed to them in a unique and powerful way: **"and the glory"** (Exodus 40:34 God glory filled the temple)
- 4) God established multiple covenants with them starting with Abraham, and continuing through Isaac, Jacob, the nation of Israel, King David: **"and the covenants"**
- 5) He revealed Himself to them through His statues and ordinances by giving them the Law: **"and the giving of the Law"**
- 6) He established a means for them to serve and worship Him: **"and the temple services"**
- 7) He promised them progeny, land, a great nation, earthly and spiritual blessings, and ultimately salvation: **"and the promises"**
- 8) They could claim the great Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob) as their ancestors: **whose are the fathers"** (5)
- 9) But most significantly, the Messiah was one of their own: **"and whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever."**

Conclusion

1. Israel has always been at the center of God's redemptive plan—I once heard Israel referred to as God's vehicle of world redemption
2. When God called Abram, he promised to make him a great nation and bless ALL the nations of the earth through him
3. Some believe that the Church is the new Israel, that God has given up on Israel and replaced them with the Christian Church (it's called replacement theology or suppressionism)
4. However, these people do not understand God's redemptive plan:
 - a. It began with the calling of Abraham and the establishment of a people all His own called Israel
 - b. It continued with Him sending His Son, Jesus, to His people to redeem them from their sins
 - c. It will be this way in the future when Jesus returns to earth to take up the throne of David and establish his 1000 year Millennial kingdom
 - d. Notice that in each of these "phases" (if you will), Israel is at the center
5. What we learned in these five verses is that Paul understood that God was not finished with Israel, and he longed for their salvation
6. What we will learn in the next few chapters is how Israel continues to fit into God's redemptive plan for mankind