

THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIS PAST ELECTION OF ISRAEL, PT. 1

A. THE CONTEXT OF ROMANS 9–11

1. The theme of the book of Romans is the _____ of God revealed through Jesus Christ.
2. Romans 9–11 demonstrates God’s righteousness by explaining how He will uphold His _____ to the nation _____ despite its present state of unbelief. (9:1-6, 14)
 - a) Romans 9 – Israel’s _____ by God’s sovereign will
 - b) Romans 10 – Israel’s _____ of Christ in unbelief
 - c) Romans 11 – Israel’s _____ at Christ’s return
3. Romans 9–11 is written to show: (a) Israel’s present unbelief and failure is not God’s _____ but Israel’s; (b) Israel being set aside is only _____, not total, since God still has a remnant of believing Jews; (c) Israel being set aside is only _____, since all God’s promises to Israel will still be fulfilled.
 - *How have many Calvinist, Covenant theologians missed the main point of Romans 9–11?*
4. The main point and emphasis of Romans 9–11 is not the _____ or spiritual salvation of _____ Jews and Gentiles but the sovereign, righteous plan of God for _____, _____ Israel.
 - a) In Romans 1–8 Paul uses the word “Jew/Jews” (9x) in contrast to Gentiles, but then in Romans 9–11 he switches to the broader, national term “Israel/ite” (14x).
 - b) Corporate & national words and concepts are found at least 40x (*Israel/ite* [14]; *nation* [2]; *people* [6]; *Jew/Jewish* [2]; *Gentiles/Greek* [8]; individual names of national representatives [8]).
 - c) The Old Testament references in 9:8-19 are to progenitors of nations (9:7-12 – *Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob*, cf. Gen. 12–50; 9:12-13 – *Esau/Edom*, cf. Gen. 25:23; Mal. 1:1-5), national representatives (9:16 – *Moses*, cf. Ex. 33:19; 9:17 – *Pharaoh*, cf. Ex. 9:13-18), or national Judah or Israel in their original contexts (9:19-21 cf. Jer. 18:1-11).
 - d) Romans 11:28 contrasts the *gospel* with *election*, showing that unconditional election in chapters 9–11 is not to individual salvation but to Israel’s privileged national position of service as God’s representatives to bring blessing to the world.
 - e) If Romans 9:6-23 is about individual election to salvation, then this must mean *God does not will that all unbelieving Israelites be saved* (9:14-18), in contrast to *Paul* (9:1-3; 10:1), which would mean Paul’s will is either wrong in 9:1-3 and 10:1 or greater than God’s, both of which are problematic.
 - *Why does Paul refer to Israel’s salvation in 9:27; 10:1, 9, 13; & 11:26 if it’s not his main point?*

B. THE PAST UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION OF THE NATION ISRAEL (Romans 9:1-13)

1. The apostle Paul had a great _____ burden for his fellow Israelites. (9:1-3; 10:1)

- *Who else shared this burden?*
- *What blessings did the nation of Israel possess? (9:4-5)*
- *Did Israel in Paul's day still possess these blessings? (9:4; Acts 3:25)*
- *What does this imply about Israel and the church?*

2. The reason for citing God's choice of Isaac over Ishmael in Romans 9:6-9 was to show that God sovereignly chose who would inherit the promises and blessings of the _____ based solely on His will, not man's (Gen. 12:1-3; 25:19-26; Deut. 7:6-8). This passage is *not* teaching that God chose Isaac and all his descendants to be _____ while choosing Ishmael and all his descendants to be eternally _____ (Gen. 17:18-21).

- *Who determined which descendants of Abraham would be God's chosen people?*

3. Romans 9:10-12 illustrates God's plan to unconditionally elect one of two "_____" to be heir of the promises and blessings of the unconditional Abrahamic Covenant (Gen. 25:23; Rom. 9:12), not to unconditionally elect some to individual salvation while damning the non-elect.

- *In Romans 9:12, why is Esau's service to Jacob a problem for those who say this passage is about individuals being unconditionally elected to salvation? (Num. 24:18; 2 Sam. 8:14; 1 Chron. 18:13)*

4. The reference in Romans 9:13 to God's hatred of Esau does not mean God _____ Esau to hell since this statement was written 1,500 years _____ the descent of the nations of Israel (Jacob) and Edom (Esau). (Mal. 1:1-5)

- *What can you learn from all of this?*