

Romans

**The Righteousness of God
proven through Messiah,
King Jesus**

Romans

Chapters 1-11 – God's righteousness is on trial:

- 1) *Is He really fixing life?*
 - 2) *Has He done what He said He would do?*
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Paul has answered this 1st question about fixing life:

- *Jesus was crowned King at His resurrection & will fix life*
- *He has taken on the requirement of Torah...of living perfectly before the Father on our behalf so we do not have to*
- *He has offered Himself as a sacrifice for the sins of humanity so we will not be condemned*
- *He has raised us up with Him and now has called us full heirs...what is true of Him is now true of us*
- *He has indwelt us with His Spirit giving us life, enabling us to live well*
- *He has illuminated our understanding of suffering...it literally proves we are connected to Messiah*
- *His Spirit testifies daily to our spirit that we are full heirs*
- *What He has done for us He will do for all of creation*

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Paul has dabbled with this 2nd question:

- *The original contract with Abraham ALWAYS included Jews AND Gentiles within the children of God...not only is it not a new thought the Roman church stands as a testimony that God has been faithful*
 - *The original agreement ALWAYS said our relationship with God is a result of a responsive faith based upon His faithfulness to us, not anything else (namely having Torah, circumcision, etc.)*
 - *The Torah was never supposed to produce life...that's what God does!*
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What has God been doing with Israel?

1) If Israel isn't believing in Messiah Jesus in mass then what gives?

2) What was on God's mind when it came to Israel & the history of humanity?

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Romans Chapters 9-11

This large section is explaining the way God has worked in history through diverse peoples

*It is NOT about their FATE but rather their
FUNCTION...Israel's ROLE*

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Paul's goal now is to address this 2nd question and he will do it by asking 2 separate questions:

1) Israel at large doesn't believe in Jesus as Messiah...what gives?

2) Has God been faithful to what He promised...particularly in regards to Israel?

Has God's Word failed?

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What Paul makes clear is...

- a) The way God lead Israel in the past is exactly fitting how they are being lead now...only a remnant has consistently followed Him – He never promised to save all Israel but rather to work THRU Israel to save humanity*
 - b) God is even still NOW saving the Jewish people*
 - c) In the end “all Israel will be saved” by God*
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God's righteousness, meaning His faithfulness to the covenant promises and beyond that His determination to make the World right again thru these promises are called into question by Israel's failure to believe Jesus!

Karl Barth – “The Divine YES had heard instead a resounding NO.”

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Why is this so important that Paul address this?

Believing Gentiles in Rome are starting to think God is done with Israel:

- *Rome had a long tradition of anti-Jewish sentiment (expelled 2x in last 20 years)*
 - *The return of large numbers of Jews to Rome under Nero with an existing church rattled both sides*
 - *By the late 50's tension in Judea & Galilee was huge – news in Rome was clear on this and simply further drove a wedge between Jews & Gentiles*
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Romans 9:1-3

- *I'm telling the truth*
 - *I am not lying*
 - *My conscience agrees*
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Romans 9:4-5

- a) Israel was entrusted with the very utterances of God (3:1-2)*
- b) Thru that deep connection to God they were called to be light to the world*
- c) They failed in their Divine calling*
- d) So God stepped up on their behalf, and thru Jesus, the Messiah, an Israelite, faithfully reached the world*

And BTW, notice what Paul mentions as the climax of Israel's list...

- e) And now Israel at large is itself failing to believe in Messiah who is BTW GOD!*
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What a mess! What pain this is to watch...especially for Paul:

- *God comes thru for Israel when they wouldn't...for millennia*
- *And He does it Himself! The Divine Son of God!*
- *And He is not only rejected, God is then accused of not coming thru*

Again you can hear echoes of Moses at the foot of Mt. Sinai

- *Israel rejected God and made an image to worship*
 - *And Moses prayed on their behalf that God would take him out instead of them*
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Ethnic CHOSEN Israel does not believe in Messiah...and then God throws the door open to Gentiles...is that what He was supposed to do?

➤ *How is this fair?*

➤ *And how can you call Him faithful?*

Has God's Word failed?

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In chapters 7-8, the key to grasping this text is unfolded:

- *The Torah was given to CONCENTRATE SIN into one place*
 - *Sin, being exceedingly sinful, took what was holy and ran with it*
 - *This made those living under the Torah, who delighted in Torah, live the awful realization that their lives were bound under sin and death as sin reigned*
 - *Loving the Torah while not being able to pull it off because of sins dark power and their weak flesh*
 - *This led to the conclusion in Romans 8:1-4 – God has now done thru Messiah what Torah could not*
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The passage divides pretty neatly into 3 sections:

1. Verses 6-13 = Israel's Patriarchal Foundation

2. Verses 14-18 = The Exodus

3. Verses 19-29 = God's Judgment that led to Exile & through it God's Promises to Abraham fulfilled to the world

Each section is introduced either by a question or an implied question

a) Has God's Word failed? vs. 6 to Romans 3:3

b) Is God unjust? vs. 14 to Romans 3:5

c) Why does He find fault? vs. 19 to Romans 3:7

(all 3 questions come out of Romans 3:1-9)

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Section 1: Romans 9:6-13 = Israel's Patriarchal Foundation

Tells the Story of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob

➤ *God always intended that only some of Abraham's descendants would carry forward the saving purpose (again THEIR ROLE, not their salvation)*

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There is an “Israel”, and then there is an “Israel” What does Paul mean by that?

Romans 9:7-9 = Example # 1

POINT = *God has done what He promised, His Word has not failed*

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There is an “Israel”, and then there is an “Israel” What does Paul mean by that?

Romans 9:10-12 = Example # 2

Then Paul adds 3 qualifying statements:

1)By a single father

2)at the time of the promise these kids weren't even born yet – no moral track record

3)By God's Sovereign call

The 3rd one holds the real weight, the 2nd one takes most of his explanation

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Again, the question is about UNBELIEVING ISRAEL – And Has God's Word failed?

His answer is no – His purposes are Divine, they are by Grace separate from merit, and they always involved God making a choice from within the physical family

Again this is NOT ABOUT individual's spiritual fate but rather Israel's
ROLE in salvation history

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Romans 9:13 (From Mal. 1:2-3)

*God's Word has not failed...He always declared that he would work
thru Isaac, not Ishmael, and Jacob not Esau IN SALVATION
HISTORY*

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Closing Thoughts:

1. Our role/calling vs. our relationship with God

2. God's reliability
