

## **Wrestling with the Sovereignty of God & the Freedom of Relationship**

### **Romans Chapters 9:6-13**

- \* God's Gospel unveils God's Righteousness
- \* 2 aspects to God's righteousness
- \* How Romans 8 ends and Romans 9 starts

We said last week that starting in chapter 9 Paul is retelling Israel's story from Abraham to present God's Gospel has culminated in Jesus and now finally Gentiles are coming

The problem is ethnic Israel has/is failed to believe

Paul will retell Israel's story to address this issue and it runs all the way thru to 10:21

Paul will share how Israel's story has always been one of grace and tragedy

Israel, meant to be an entire Nation who followed God has been paired down to a remnant

Paul will explain that even this is not outside God's purposes...what looks like failure is God moving

Has Israel failed to believe the Gospel?

Maybe so, but God has not failed

God has always specified ONE SON and not the other, ONE TWIN and not the other

One SMALL GROUP while the rest fell away

ONE tiny REMNANT while the rest did not believe

This may not be the way Israel was used to telling their story, but it is their scriptures

Again, Paul is not giving us an abstract argument on individuals

This is Israel's Story and how God comes out

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

This led to the conclusion in Romans 8:1-4 – God has now done thru Messiah what Torah could not

He has condemned sin in Jesus' death and the resurrected life of Jesus is now open to anyone with faith and perpetuated by the Spirit

What Torah accomplished in Israel, though it looks negative, is part of God's larger purpose

God called Israel to undo the sin of Adam, but the work needed the Messiah to accomplish it that the world might find redemption

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?
- b) Is God unjust?
- c) Why does He find fault?

Cool too...all these questions come right out of Romans 3:1-9

- vs. 6 to 3:3
- vs. 14 to 3:5
- vs. 19 to 3:7

### 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

This had nothing to do with merits but rather divine purpose

- Romans 9:6a

"Fail" = fall

Mean, has God's Word stumbled and fallen

This question is right out of Isaiah 40-55 (55:11, 40:8)

The Prophet tell the story like Paul of Israel being narrowed down to a single point thru which God will fulfill His purpose

The answer is...actually no, it is Israel that has stumbled and fallen

- Romans 9:6

There is an "Israel", and then there is an "Israel"

[What does Paul mean by that based upon last week's discussion?](#)

- Romans 9:7

Paul further explains verse 6...there is a difference between Abraham's "children" and His "seed"

Literally the verse should read, **"nor is it the case that seed of Abraham all children"**

"Seed" here is the positive more limited category (Genesis 21:12)

[Abraham had 2 kids, who are they?](#)

Isaac & Ishmael

[Which one is the "seed"?](#)

Isaac

- Romans 9:8-9

Now he distinguishes the two groups based upon "FLESH" vs. "PROMISE"

[Children of flesh are who?](#)

Physical family

[Children of the promise are who?](#)

Cool too, he covers matriarchal history as well as patriarchal history to cover all bases

[What is the point? Remember, what question is Paul answering?](#)

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

God promised a son, and then when the time came for a choice, God reaffirmed it thru Isaac

- Romans 9:10-12

Someone might have reacted to Paul's Ishmael/Isaac illustration by saying that the boys had different mothers

Paul anticipates this – Rebecca is the mother of both Jacob and Esau

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 3<sup>rd</sup> one holds the real weight, the 2<sup>nd</sup> one takes most of his explanation

**What is God saying about selection Jacob to fulfill His redemptive purposes?**

Had nothing to do with Jacob's merits

Paul is explaining the longstanding purposes of God for Israel ultimately for the world

**BY GRACE, NOT OF WORKS BUT OF THE ONE WHO CALLS**

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

- Romans 9:13

From Mal. 1:2-3

- Mal. 1:2-5

Context in Malachi = Esau = the people of EDOM, suffered devastation and any attempt they have at rebuilding will be met with force and they will be thwarted

The text isn't meant to make Jacob, meaning Israel feel superior by merit

In fact it should make you feel just the opposite

\* Obadiah 10-12, Amos 1, Psalm 137:7-9

Again what is Paul's point?

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

This set a pattern at work that ran thru Paul's day

This though raises the next question...is this fair? Is God just then?

How come God gets to pick who physically He will work with to accomplish His redemptive task?

To answer this Paul turns to the EXODUS