

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Israel: In the Sovereign Will of God
Romans 9:14-33

Last time...Paul's heart was shredded over the spiritual condition of His people, the Jews:

John 8:24 *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins.*

Most have chosen to not believe
 death over Life (against the counsel of Moses in Deut 30:15-20)
 darkness over Light
and are blind in their choices...which have zero impact on the truth of the Word of God

For not all Israel (descendants of Jacob by the flesh, Rom 7:18)
are of Israel (children of God by faith and quickened spirits)

John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing:
the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

The Word of God did, does, and always will accomplish its purpose (Is 55:10-11):
divide

divide the children of God from the children of the flesh
Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper
 than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing
 asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow,
 and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.
So there was a division among the people because of him.

John 7:43

John 9:16

John 10:19

The righteousness of God, revealed from faith to faith, is by faith of Jesus Christ
unto all and upon all them that believe (Matt 16:16, John 6:28-29)

The division of the Word of God runs thru every family

e.g. Abraham: Ishamel vs Isaac

Isaac: Esau vs Jacob

therefore Jacob: believers in Jesus Christ vs unbelievers

This time...the teaching/doctrine regarding Israel in Rom 9-11 continues

For 19 centuries the Biblical topic of Israel was a mystery

- believed by most Christians to be “done” and “finished”
- believed by a remnant of Christians to be “I don’t know how but God said...”

But suddenly, Israel was again a nation

Is 66:8-14

In Israel, 2 signs of judgment of the nations

1. Is 11:10

Jesus being made sin and judged for the sins of the world

2. Is 11:11-12

Israel again a nation, a sign of God’s judgment when Jesus returns
as King of kings and Lord of Lord

Initiating the “beginning of sorrows” in Matt 24:4-8,
a time in which we now live,
the time preceding Jacob’s Trouble/70th Week/DoL

Nearly all, if not all of us, have only known a world that included the nation of Israel

But it was not so for over 1900 years

So these are prophetically significant and exciting times and the Biblical topic of Israel is
“fresh” in the history of the Church

This time in Rom 9...Israel and the Sovereign will of God

v14 After v1-13, what shall we say about the righteousness of God that divides families,
even the families of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?

Is God unrighteous...wrong, unfair, unjust, erratic and unpredictable?

No way! Not a chance!

Deut 32:4 *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God
of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Ps 9:8 And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment
to the people in uprightness.

The unrighteousness lies in man-kind

John 6:63-65 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I
speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. But there are some of
you that believe not [hard hearts]. For Jesus knew from the beginning
who they were that believed not, and who should betray him. And he said,
Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were
given unto him of my Father. [softened hearts]*

What God is, is sovereign...the Supreme ruler with supreme power

v15 As God said to Moses, in expressing His sovereignty, He will have mercy on whom He will and will have compassion upon whom He will
And His mercy and compassion are of His nature and are given by His righteousness

Ex 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

Mercy: not getting what you deserve
A gift of a loving God, not a “right” to be demanded of God
We deserve justice...Rom 3:10, 23

Ps 145:8-9 The LORD *is* gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD *is* good to all: and his tender mercies *are* over all his works.

Matt 5:44-45

Gal 3:21-22 *Is* the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Ex 33:19 will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.

Ex 32 Impatient in waiting for Moses to return from Mount Sinai, where God was writing in stone with His finger, the people of Israel “erupt in the flesh”
Aaron fashioned the golden calf and the people worshipped it as the god that led them out of Egypt and they rose up and played
The Lord saw all that and sent Moses down the Mount
The Lord said He will destroy this people and make a great nation of Moses
Moses interceded on behalf of the people and “reminds” the Lord of His the promises/covenants with AI&J
Test passed for Moses
Moses returned to the camp of Israel, saw what they had done, threw the tables of stone to the ground, ground them into powder, tossed the powder upon the water, and made the people drink the water
The camp of Israel is cleansed of its rebels
Alone with the Lord, Moses wants to see the glory of God
To which the Lord responded...

v16 Therefore, it...mercy...is not of any person, nor is it a right reward for anything any person does, but it is purely because of the Sovereign God and His nature

Micah 7:18-19 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Who is “us”, “our” who are forgiven of their sin and have their sins cast into the depths of the sea by a just and righteous God?

Ex 20:6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. (Matt 22:36-40)

v17-18 Another example of v15: Pharaoh

Ex 9:13-16 And the LORD said unto Moses, Rise up early in the morning, and stand before Pharaoh, and say unto him, Thus saith the LORD God of the Hebrews, Let my people go, that they may serve me. For I will at this time send all my plagues upon thine heart, and upon thy servants, and upon thy people; that thou mayest know that *there is* none like me in all the earth. For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up, for to shew *in* thee my power [to set My people free]; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth [the process ending in the Red Sea]

| <u>Plague</u> | <u>heart hardened by</u> | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Nile/water turned to blood | Pharaoh | |
| 2. Frogs | Pharaoh | |
| 3. Lice | Pharaoh | |
| 4. Swarms of flies | Pharaoh | |
| 5. Murrain | Pharaoh | |
| 6. Boils and blains | the Lord | after this, Ex 9:13-16 |
| 7. Hail with fire | Pharaoh | |
| 8. Locusts | the Lord | |
| 9. Darkness that was felt | the Lord | |
| 10. Death of the firstborn son | the Lord | |

And indeed v17b happened just as God had said!

God will have mercy on those who love Him...

believer, trust Him, born-again of His Spirit, the children of God

God will harden/stiffen those who hate Him

unbeliever, defy Him, give Him lip service, children of the flesh and disobedience

v19 Anticipating the reaction of the readers/hearers of this letter: disputing with God

If God has mercy on those whom He will and hardens whom He will,

I am what I am, I am what He made me.

I have no say in the matter, I have no choice.

Why does He still find fault in me?

How can God blame me for what He did to me?

His will is sovereign...so I have no will.

Q: Per Scripture, what is the will of the Almighty?

Ezk 18:32

2 Peter 3:9

1 Tim 2:4

John 6:32-40

5 Point Calvinism is in error (God chooses for every person, no person has a choice)

for we are not robots, we are free agents give a choice to believe or not

“X Factor” in the sovereign will of God: the foreknowledge of the eternal and all-knowing God

v20-21 To those who would defy/dispute/contend with the Sovereign God,

Shall the creature challenge the Creator with “Why did you make me this way?!”

What have You done with me? Do You know what You are doing?!”

Obviously not

Can the clay make demands of the Potter...

Can the clay impose its will on the Potter?

Can the Potter NOT make as He desires with the clay?

Obviously not

Ezk 18:4 All souls are Mine

Ps 115:3 But our God *is* in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. (and He is good, Matt 19:17)

Job 38:1-2 ff

Job 40:1-14

v22-24 OK Mr/Mrs Creature and Mr/Mrs Clay, what if the Sovereign and Almighty God was willing to...what if His was to

1. show His wrath/indignation and make His power known to the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction after their rebellion was endured by God with much longsuffering
2. make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which had prepared before for us, the believers, both Jew and Gentile

Rom 2:6-11

Matt 7:13-14

2 Tim 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called *us* with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began

Who could possibly argue with Him about His plan and His foreknown choices?
After all, He sent His only Begotten Son to be His sacrifice for the sins of the world that whosoever would (choose to) believe would everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation but is passed from death unto Life!!!
What has He NOT done to make all wrongs right?!!

v25-26 And the eternal God of foreknowledge foretells His people what He is going to do

The prophet Hosea (Joshua/Jesus) was told to marry a whore, an unfaithful woman, and to have children by her
Hosea's life would be a living parable of God's relationship with Israel

By faith, he did (there can be no understanding the Word of apart from faith)
Gomer was his wife
Their children were

1. a son named Jezreel ("I will avenge the blood")
2. a daughter named Loru-hamah ("I will no more have mercy")
3. a son named Loammi ("Ye are not my people and I will not be your God")

In v25, the Apostle Paul is inspired to quote Hosea 2:23...foretelling of the Church

1 Peter 2:9-10 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

In v26, the Apostle Paul is inspired to quote Hosea 1:10...foretelling of Israel

He had not forsaken them

He will make good His word to AI&J

From the nation of Israel will come children of God, born-again of the Spirit of God by grace thru faith and not by works

v27-29 Also regarding the Jews/Israel, the Apostle Paul is inspired to quote the prophet Isaiah

In v27, he quotes Is 10:22a

Though the number of the children of Israel (descendants of Jacob according to the flesh) be as numerous as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved

The saved are the children of God, those born again of the Spirit of God by grace thru faith

Not all Israel will be saved...not all Israel are the children of God!

v6b

What does this mean when Israel is no longer a Biblical mystery?

Dan 9:24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. ("times of the Gentiles")

The DoL/70th Week lies in the future...Jacob's Trouble

Jer 30:7 Alas! for that day *is* great, so that none *is* like it: it *is* even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it.

during which

Ezk 20:33-44

Zech 13:8-9 And it shall come to pass, *that* in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off *and* die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It *is* my people: and they shall say, The LORD *is* my God.

after which

Zech 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

Micah 7:18-19 Who *is* a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth *in* mercy. He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

God will finish the work He has begun with Israel the nation, the descendants of Jacob according to the flesh...the children of God will be divided from the children of the flesh and disobedience...
in short order on the earth (i.e. 7 years)

In v29, the Apostle Paul is inspired to quote Is 1:9
Except the Lord of Armies had left us a seed/remnant, we would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah...destroyed from off the face of the earth

So how awesome is the mercy of the sovereign God?!
And were it not for the mercy of the sovereign God extended to us personally, we all would also be roasted and toasted like S&G!

v30-31 All of this to say that

- a. the Gentiles, which did not follow/pursue righteousness, have obtained/possessed righteousness (ala Gen 15:6)... the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ (1 Thes 1:9-10)
- b. Israel, which followed/pursued righteousness by the Law, has not arrived at righteousness...having missed the entire point of the Law (Rom 3:19-22, Gal 3:24)

Israel, the children of the flesh and disobedience, did not attain righteousness because...

v32-33 Because they sought righteousness with God based on their (imperfect) merit/performance and not by faith in God's perfect merit/performance
They trusted their flesh rather than their God
They remained children of the flesh and of disobedience

Because...

They stumbled at Jesus Christ...God made flesh...and Him crucified
The Apostle Paul was inspired to quote Isaiah again
Is 8:14-15
Is 28:16

Salvation from eternal death and the wrath of a righteous and sovereign God is

- by faith...in the righteousness of Jesus Christ, our Substitute before the unchanging justice of God
- not by works...a self-righteousness to satisfy the absolute justice of God

Taking us back to the glory of Rom 5:15-21

Application/Exhortation

The unbelieving, still-dead-in-sin Jew

- religious...weak, mild, or staunch
- secular
- atheistic

stands before their God empty handed

They have no sacrifice for sin, and without blood there is no remission of sin

Because they

1. have no Temple on Temple Mount
2. reject and defy the Lamb of God, the Father's sin sacrifice for their sins,
Who is the Substance of the shadows of the Temple and all the sacrifices in the Law (John 5:39, Epistle to the Hebrews)

Therefore, they, as a nation and individually, are ripe for a deception...John 5:43, Matt24:4-8

What does that mean to us believers, Jew and Gentile?

What happens in these days like the Days of Noah and the Days of Lot and

BEFORE the deception that will be believed by the unbelieving Jews?

The Rapture of the Church!

Our blessed hope of Jesus' return to the clouds for/with us!!

What does this mean to the fence-sitters?

The Sovereignty of God can be a sobering, even frightful, truth to consider

He is The Supreme Ruler with supreme power and authority

No being, either spiritual or carnal, can challenge His authority

He is the Absolute and eternal Judge

His judgments stand forever

No being can alter His judgments

Jude 22-23 And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling *them* out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

We will continue this teaching on Israel next week in Rom 10