

Romans Chapter 9

In chapters 9-11, Paul addresses the question regarding the Jews and their rejection of Jesus as Savior. Since they are the chosen people of God, why would they crucify the fulfillment of God's plan—Jesus Christ? The majority of the Roman church was composed of Gentiles, but the small percentage of Jews necessitated these questions to be answered. We have to remember that Paul was a Jew and within these chapters, Paul pours out a heart of love and frustration towards his people.

As you read this, keep this thought in mind: Isn't it true that until our hearts are broken to this point and our love is this strong that we will never see others come to Christ?

Consider this outline of the rocky history between Rome and its Jewish population given in the Broadman Commentary.

140 BC: Judas Maccabeus sent ambassadors to Rome to work out the relationship with the Roman Empire

63 BC: Pompey conquered Judah taking many prisoners of war

50 BC: A large Jewish community was established in Rome

31 AD: Emperor Tiberius banished 4,000 Jews to be killed

49 AD: Emperor Claudius expelled all Jews. This is how Paul met Priscilla and Aquila who had been expelled from Rome.

59 AD: By this time the Jews were allowed to return to Rome

Date: Monday, March 11

Scripture: Romans 9:1-5

Theme: My People

- Paul wished (prayed) that he could be banished from Jerusalem if this would bring his countrymen to salvation.
 - Accursed—under the ban of God and dedicated to total destruction.
- Paul lists six advantages given to the Jews all of which should have brought them to a realization of God's plan in Jesus.

- Adoption—they became the chosen people of God. (Hosea 11:1)
- Glory—the “shekinah” glory was central in Jewish worship and was evident when God visited His people.
- Covenants—those made with Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and David. Paul viewed two main covenants—the old and the new.
- Law—the guide to apply the covenantal relationship in daily life.
- Temple worship—liturgy of the Temple
- Promises—those made with all the patriarchs and the prophets through which Israel knew its destiny.
- How could a people given so much by God miss what He was doing through His Son?
 - They were the people through whom Jesus was sent.

Date: Tuesday, March 12

Scripture: Romans 9:6-13

Theme: Chosen

- God’s plan had not failed. Not all Jews had rejected Jesus. “All the early followers of Jesus were Jews.” Remember that Paul was a Jew.
 - And, not all true children of God, descendants of Abraham, are Jewish.
- It is here that Paul begins to speak of God’s choice or election of those He used.
 - Election—“God’s selective purpose in Christ for the salvation of mankind.”
 - One cannot remove the foreknowledge of God in the process of election. Once again, there is a union between selection and the fulfillment of the purpose.
- Paul uses two examples of election:
 - Isaac was the child of God’s promise even though Abraham had two biological sons.
 - God chose Jacob over Esau before they had done anything that could have been interpreted as merit.
 - “Hated Esau” To be held in relative disregard in comparison to His feelings toward Jacob.

Date: Wednesday, March 13

Scripture: Romans 9:14-18

Theme: He is God

- Consider that the one thing God will not harden a heart towards is salvation
 - Once again, as we consider Moses and Pharaoh, keep in mind the omniscience of God.
- God's mercy and compassion are not given based on one's desires or works of merit.
 - God used Pharaoh so that His mercy towards Israel would be known throughout the world.
 - Once again, apply God's foreknowledge regarding Pharaoh's reaction to what was asked of him. The hardening of a heart that already had the capability.
 - "The sun that hardens the clay melts the butter."

Date: Thursday, March 14

Scripture: Romans 9:19-26

Theme: My People

- This section also has to be understood in the arena of God's foreknowledge.
- Vessels of mercy vs. vessels of wrath
 - Vs. 22—"What if" Consider the possibilities of what God is doing.
 - He patiently endured one, the vessels of wrath, so that His mercy and glory could be shown to the other, the vessels of mercy.
 - The vessels of wrath had brought themselves to the point of destruction.
 - God's patience is always leading to the possibility of repentance. (2:4-5)
- Once again, the called are those who respond to the preaching of the Gospel.
 - Not all are Jews—His people are also the Gentiles.

Date: Friday, March 15

Scripture: Romans 9:27-31

Theme: Stumbling

- Verses 30-33—the focus is the central theme of Romans—justification by faith in Jesus.
 - One cannot gain righteousness by humanly pursuing it—it is a gift given through faith by the grace of God.
 - Jesus will always be a stumbling block to those who attempt to gain righteousness by works.
 - The Jews had all they needed to know this but they could not accept it by faith—they determined it had to be by their own works.

The doctrine of election has been completely misinterpreted to justify determinism or double predestination. The belief that God creates some to be saved and others to be condemned.