

## Pt 31 Romans 9:6-13, Not All Israel Are of Israel

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### Romans 9:6-13

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

9 For this *is* the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son.

10 And not only *this*; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, *even* by our father Isaac;

11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

We started in Chapter 9 this past Wednesday. We see that Paul's attention now is placed solely in Israel, or the Jews. The first 5 verses were dealing with Paul making a connection with them as one of their own. He relates to them his great heaviness and continual sorrow in his heart concerning their need for salvation.

As we said last time, the Jews rejected Jesus Christ as their Messiah. They did not believe at all that he was the one whom God had promised them to be their Savior. Jesus had a stinging rebuke toward the Jews while he was here on earth and he says this in **Matthew 13:15** *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

Because of their continued unbelief, God pulled a veil over their eyes. In Romans Chapter 11 Paul says: **Romans 11:8** (According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hear;) unto this day.

The Jews in Jesus' day, in Paul's day, and in our day that we live in today, are still blinded and they still claim that Jesus was not their Messiah. They claim that even the Jewish religious leaders rejected him as the Messiah so it must be true that he isn't.

In this chapter and the next two chapters, Paul is "defending" God, if you will, against their false accusations that God had broken his promise to them. He will take them back through the history of their race and point out God's dealing with them and prove that He has not abandoned them at all.

I will say that this chapter is and always has been a very controversial and misunderstood chapter of the Bible. Our Calvinist brothers absolutely love this chapter because they use it to try and force their T.U.L.I.P. theology. I think you'll understand why as we go through it.

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Right away, Paul addresses the unspoken question that his listeners had and that was; if all the things he has been saying so far in this letter are true then that must mean that God has broken his promises to the Nation of Israel. All those things he

listed in verse 4 are of no effect. **Romans 9:4** *Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;* In other words, the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the Law, the service, and the promises of God are null and void.

But Paul wants to assure them that God's promises for Israel are all still true and still in effect (Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect.) and then he explains how. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel:

This almost seems like a riddle when you look at it. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: What does he mean "not all Israel, are of Israel?" Does this mean there are two different Israels? A real Israel and a fake Israel? No, that's not what he means.

In the remaining 7 verses, Paul uses two of the greatest Jewish examples to show to them that God's promises have not changed. The children of Abraham and the children of Isaac.

On a side note: Paul uses 16 different Old Testament references from V7 to V33, to prove the OT promises have not failed:

V 7	V 9	V 12	V 13	V 15	V 17	V 25	V 26	V 27	V 28	V 29	V 33
GEN 21:12	GEN 18:10	GEN 25:23	MAL 1:2-3	EXO 33:19	EXO 9:16	HOS 2:23	HOS 1:10	ISA 10:22	ISA 10:23	ISA 1:9	ISA 28:16
	GEN 18:14							GEN 22:17			ISA 8:14
								HOS 1:10			

Here in verse 7, he starts with Father Abraham.

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

As you and every Jew alive knows, Abraham had more than just one son. Genesis chapter 16 tells us that he had a son before Isaac with Sarah's handmaiden, Hagar. That son's name was Ishmael. Ishmael was NOT the son of promise. He would go on to establish the race of people we know as Arabs, and this is where the Muslim faith would spring from.

The Promise of God came through Abraham's son, Isaac. So right away Paul is making the case that not everyone who physically comes from the blood of Abraham is included in the Promises of God.

One thing we learn from reading the Bible is that the Jews had the belief that just because they were descendants of Abraham that they were assured Salvation. You could ask any Jew if they are a child of God and they will say "**yes, of course, I am a descendant of Abraham.**"

That's what the religious leaders did the whole-time during Jesus' earthly ministry. Listen to this conversation Jesus had with the Pharisees:

### John 8:31-47

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;*

32 *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

33 They answered him, *We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?*

34 Jesus answered them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is*

the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: *but* the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, *even* God.

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

43 Why do ye not understand my speech? *even* because ye cannot hear my word.

44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

45 And because I tell *you* the truth, ye believe me not.

46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.

So, their way of thinking was since they could trace their bloodline back to Abraham then that meant that they were automatically Children of God.

It would be like me claiming that I am a Native American Indian because I have Cherokee blood in my family lineage. But that doesn't make me an Indian.

Or it's like saying America is a Christian nation and if you are an American then you are a Christian. That doesn't make you a Christian at all. Even if your dad was a Christian or your grandfather or your great grandfather was a Christian, that doesn't make you a Christian.

Or here's one even better: I belong to such and such Church, therefore, I am a Christian and assured a home in heaven. Look, being a Church member has nothing to do with you being saved. You SHOULD be saved if you join a Church but not everyone that joins are truly saved. Listen to what Jesus had to say about it:

**Matthew 7:21-23** Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Back when we used to go door to door sharing the Gospel with people in the community there were some people we would ask if they were a Christian and they would say things such as "Oh yes, my grandfather was a preacher and we used to go to such and such Church." When we would press them on how they become a Christian they didn't have an answer except their bloodline or their church attendance, etc.

Listen, there are those that believe just because someone is a Jew then that means they are automatically saved. There is even some false teaching going on that you shouldn't even witness or share the Gospel with Jews because they will be saved regardless of whether they accept the Lord Jesus Christ. This simply is not true!

Paul is stressing the point that just because you were born into the Jewish race or Israel, doesn't mean you are automatically saved. That is why he says in the next verse:

8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

There's a difference in being a child of the flesh and a child of God. One is a Spiritual child, the other is a physical child. Just claiming Abraham as your "father" means nothing. The Jews would lay claim to being "Children of the Promise" which means they believe they are redeemed because of their family lineage – but they are wrong.

You only become a Child of God if you have by faith believed in God's plan of Salvation, which is through His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ is NOT Jesus' last name; it is his title. The word Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew word for **Messiah** or **Anointed One**. When you add the word "Lord" to Jesus it means **Yahweh** or **Jehovah**. It indicates his deity as God. So, the Lord Jesus Christ means **Jehovah Jesus the Messiah**.

You would be hard-pressed to find any Jew that would claim Jesus as their God and Messiah. But if they do not believe that then they cannot be saved. Jesus himself assures us of this: **John 14:6** Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

But Paul's message to the Church and Israel is that just because there are Israelites that do not believe, and have rejected Jesus Christ as Savior, it doesn't mean that God has broken his promises. His intention wasn't that every individual would believe but that he would always have a remnant who would. His promises are still in full effect. It is for all those who believe.

You can think of it this way: the Nation of Israel as a whole was elected to the privileges of God but only individuals are elected unto salvation. God always has a remnant that are faithful to Him.

Turn over to Galatians chapter 3 and we get a better understanding of this.

**Galatians 3:6-9** Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. 7 Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. 8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, *saying*, In thee shall all nations be blessed. 9 So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham.

It all boils down to faith. Those of Israel who have faith receive the blessings and promises of God and eternal life.

9 For this *is* the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sara shall have a son. 10 And not only *this*; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, *even* by our father Isaac; 11 (For *the children* being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.