

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

ROMANS 34 - DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?

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ROMANS 9:1-8

PROLOGUE: WHO SHALL DIVORCE CHRIST FROM US?

- THE WORD TRANSLATED AS SEPARATION IS THE SAME WORD USED FOR DIVORCE
 - WHO CAN DIVORCE CHRIST FROM US FOR WE HAVE NOT THE POWER TO DIVORCE OURSELVES FROM HIM
 - JUST AS ADAM PROCLAIMED THAT EVE WAS ONE FLESH WITH HIM, THOUGH SIN QUICKLY RENT THAT ASUNDER, IT WAS A PICTURE OF THE RELATIONSHIP OF CHRIST WITH BELIEVERS (GE 20-24)
 - THIS IS WHY DIVORCE WAS NOT GOD'S NORM FROM THE BEGINNING BUT WAS PROVIDED ONLY BECAUSE OF MAN'S, AND WOMAN'S, SINFULLY HARD HEART (MT 19:1-8)
 - WE ARE PART OF THE BRIDE OF CHRIST, HE WILL NOT DIVORCE THOSE HE DIED TO SAVE (HOS 3; MT 2:18-20; EP 5:25-31; RE 21:1-3)

PROLOGUE: WE ARE CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST

- THOUGH THE WORLD VIEWS US AS OBJECTS TO BE HATED AND ELIMINATED IN THIS LIFE; WE ARE CONQUERORS TO BE USHERED INTO ETERNITY FUTURE WITH CHRIST WHO OVERCAME ALL FOR THE FATHER
 - DEATH AND LIFE – CHRIST OVERCAME DEATH EVEN AS ADAM SUCCUMBED TO A LIFE OF SIN
(GE 3:6-8; 1CO 15:53-57)
 - ANGELS OR RULERS – FALLEN ANGELS AND THE KINGDOMS OF MAN WHO ARE VASSALS OF SATAN SHALL NOT DIVORCE US FROM CHRIST THOUGH THIS IS SATAN'S GOAL
 - THINGS PRESENT OR TO COME – THERE ARE NO ISSUES THAT ARE BEYOND THE WILL OF GOD AND THUS ABLE TO COME BETWEEN GOD AND BELIEVERS LEAVING US ADRIFT TO SATAN'S WHIMS

PROLOGUE: NOTHING DIVORCES US FROM GOD

- THERE IS NO OBSTACLE IN CREATION THAT CAN DIVORCE US FROM THE GOD OF CREATION
 - HEIGHT – HAS THE CONNOTATION IMMENSE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES
 - DEPTH – CARRIES THE CONNOTATION OF THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN OR THE ABYSS
- GOD, WHO MADE CREATION AND IS OUTSIDE OF THIS CREATION IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY CREATED BARRIER OR FORCE
 - ALL CREATED OBJECTS AND BEINGS ARE LESS THAN GOD; THUS, THEY ARE POWERLESS TO PREVENT THE WILL OF GOD THOUGH THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE VICTORY FOR A SEASON (HE 11:24-28)
 - LIKE ELISHA'S SLAVE WE NEED TO WALK WITH *EYES OF FAITH* TO SEE WHAT THE WORLD CANNOT

QUESTION BEGGING AN ANSWER

- THE BIBLE IS TWO-THIRDS OLD TESTAMENT AND THE MAJORITY OF HISTORY, EVEN TODAY, OCCURRED BEFORE CHRIST; IN PAUL'S DAY 100% OF THE BIBLE WAS OLD TESTAMENT: IN OTHER WORD'S CONCERNED MAINLY WITH PRE-JEWISH AND JEWISH HISTORY
 - IS JUDAISM BEING REPLACED BY THIS *NEW* APPROACH TO GOD THAT RENDERS THEIR ENTIRE HISTORY SUPERFLUOUS?
 - WHAT OF THE PROMISES GOD MADE TO THE JEWS THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT, ESPECIALLY THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT; DO THESE ALL PASS OVER TO THE CHURCH?
 - IF TRUE, WAS GOD DISINGENUOUS IN MAKING PROMISES HE HAD NO INTENTION OF FULFILLING TO THEM; THUS, MOTIVATING THEM, AT TIMES EVEN TO DEATH, FOR A LEGACY RESERVED FOR THE COMING CHURCH COMPRISED MAINLY OF GENTILES?

PAUL DEFIES *NEW PERSPECTIVE OF PAUL*

- PAUL OPENS UP THIS NEW SEGMENT DISCUSSING HIS ANGUISH OF SPIRIT OVER HIS FELLOW JEWS GENERAL REJECTION OF THEIR MESSIAH
 - IN THIS SECTION PAUL CLEARLY SHOWS THAT HE DOES NOT ACCEPT THEIR *WORKS-BASED* APPROACH TO FAITH THOUGH IT IS THE SOURCE OF HOSTILITY BETWEEN HE AND THEM (ACTS)
 - *NEW PERSPECTIVE OF PAUL {NPP}* HAVE SOUGHT TO SHOW THAT PAUL WOULD NOT REJECT THEIR CULTURAL APPROACH TO GOD BASED ON THEIR EISEGESIS OF THE SCRIPTURES
 - PAUL WILL AGAIN CLEARLY DEFINE GOD'S VIEWPOINT CONCERNING *TRUE JUDAISM* AND *FALSE JUDAISM*; A DISTINCTION THAT ESCAPES MANY, EVEN CHRISTIANS, TODAY

UNDERSTANDING HISTORY

- THEOLOGY DOES NOT DEVELOP IN A VACUUM BUT IN THE CRUCIBLE OF HISTORY; ONE MUST GRASP THE THEN CURRENT HISTORICAL INFLUENCES TO BETTER EXEGETICALLY INTERPRET BIBLE
 - FIRST PROBLEM – ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH (RCC) LARGELY INFLUENCED BY AUGUSTINE WHO LARGELY SOUGHT TO INTEGRATE NEO-PLATONISM INTO THE SCRIPTURES
 - SECOND PROBLEM – BY THE FIFTH CENTURY CHURCHES WERE AMALGAMATING INTO ONE ENTITY WHOSE *AUTHORITY* WAS STATIONED IN ROME DICTATING DOCTRINE AND DEFINING HERESY
 - THIRD PROBLEM – THE RCC DEFINED ITSELF AS THE ONLY TRUE CHURCH AND JEWS WERE LABELED AS MURDERERS OF CHRIST THUS THE GENTILES HAD A POOR UNDERSTANDING OF JEWISH CUSTOMS; TO COMPENSATE THE CHURCH ELEVATING THEMSELVES OVER JEWS, ASSUMING FOR THEMSELVES PROMISES GIVEN TO THE JEWS: PROTESTANTISM LARGELY CONTINUES THIS TREND

REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY: EISEGETICAL THEOLOGY

- ONE MUST READ MEANING *INTO* SCRIPTURE TO JUSTIFY REPLACEMENT THEOLOGY; A BACKWARDS APPROACH AS THE READER MUST EXEGETE MEANING FROM THE SCRIPTURE
 - EARLIER IN ROMANS PAUL WROTE THAT A JEW IS NOT SIMPLY A JEW BECAUSE OF OUTWARD OR GENETIC CHARACTERISTICS; ONE WAS A JEW BECAUSE OF AN INWARD CHANGE OF HEART BY THE SPIRIT; I.E., THE NEW COVENANT (RO 2:28-29)
 - RCC AND PROTESTANTISM UNDERSTOOD THIS TO MEAN THAT SAVED GENTILES ARE NOW THE *NEW JEWS*; I.E., REPLACING THE JEWS IN GOD'S PLAN DUE TO THEIR UNBELIEF
 - HOWEVER, OUR CURRENT LESSON ELUCIDATES PAUL'S MEANING CONCERNING JEWS AND HE CONTINUES THIS CLARIFICATION THROUGH CHAPTER ELEVEN

PAUL WOULD TRADE HIS SALVATION FOR THEIRS

- LIKE MOSES WHOM GOD OFFERED TO MAKE A GREAT PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE GOLDEN CALF INCIDENT THOUGH MOSES REFUSED; PAUL OFFERS HIS SALVATION FOR THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST AS A PEOPLE (EX 32:7-14)
 - PAUL SPECIFICALLY CALLS THEM *BROTHERS IN THE FLESH*; I.E., GENETICALLY DESCENDED FROM ABRAHAM THOUGH THEY DO NOT ACT AS ABRAHAM: CHRIST MADE THIS OBSERVATION (JO 8:39-59)
 - PAUL WILL RECOUNT THEIR HISTORY AS JEWS SO THAT THE GENTILES CAN GAIN AN APPRECIATION OF GOD USED THEM
 - PAUL DOES NOT USE THIS THOUGH TO EXCUSE THEIR UNBELIEF IN CHRIST (DE 24:16)

THE JEWS ARE ISRAELITES

- THE TERM ISRAELITES SHOWS THEIR LINEAGE FROM ABRAHAM'S GRANDCHILD: ISRAEL {HE WHO STRIVES WITH GOD – AND PREVAILS}
 - THIS DENOTES THEIR HISTORY AS THEY STROVE THROUGHOUT THE OLD TESTAMENT AGAINST GOD BUT A FEW PREVAILED AND CLUNG TO GOD {HISTORY OF ALL EVER SAVED THEN AND NOW}
 - THEIR LINEAGE IS TRACED FROM ABRAHAM AND THE COVENANT GOD MADE WITH HIM AND WHICH EXTENDS TO ALL EVER SAVED OR WILL BE SAVED
 - THEY WERE ADOPTED INTO GOD'S FAMILY, AS IS TRUE OF ALL WHO ARE SAVED, SINCE MANKIND IN GENERAL REJECTED GOD AND HIS TRUTH (EX 4:22-23; GA 4:4-7)

GOD CHOSE THEM FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES

- JEWS, LIKE US, WERE NOT CHOSEN BECAUSE OF THEIR GOODNESS, THAT IS WORKS; THEY WERE CHOSEN BECAUSE THEY WERE THE LEAST OF PEOPLE (DE 7:7-9)
 - JEWS BEHELD THE GLORY OF GOD WHEN THEY WERE INDUCTED (EX 24:9-11; 33:17-23; 34:5-7)
 - NEVER IN GENESIS HAD MAN SEEN GOD'S GLORY, NOT EVEN ABRAHAM; HIS GLORY WAS GLIMPSED DURING CREATION (GE 1:1-5)
 - JEWS RECEIVED THE COVENANTS, BEGINNING WITH THE ABRAHAMIC COVENANT WHICH WAS THE FOUNDATION FOR ALL OTHER COVENANTS INCLUDING THE *NEW COVENANT* (GE 15; 17)
 - EVERYTHING GOD DID HAS BEEN GOVERNED BY THE COVENANTS; EVEN TODAY

THE LAW AND THE PROMISES

- THE LAW, MORAL, IS EMPTY WITHOUT THE PROMISES FOR AS PAUL HAS SHOWN THE MORAL LAW ONLY CONDEMNS SIN; IT IS THE PROMISES THAT OFFER LIFE FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE
 - MORAL LAW IS THE MEASURE OF GOOD AND EVIL BOTH IN RELATION TO GOD AND TO MAN SHOWING THAT MAN IS SINFUL {WEAK} AND CHRIST ALONE COULD BE THE SACRIFICE (EX 20:1-17)
 - THE LAW WAS MAN'S TUTOR IN SINFULNESS UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF TIME FOR THE *PROMISE* TO COME TO THOSE WHO BELIEVE (GA 3:19-22)
 - IT IS THE PROMISE GIVEN TO ABRAHAM AND EXTENDED TO GENTILES THAT MAKES US HEIRS OF ABRAHAM; HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN NOR DOES SCRIPTURE STATE THAT GENTILES REPLACE THE JEWS AS PAUL WILL DISCUSS IN FUTURE LESSONS ON THIS ISSUE

TRUE WORSHIP OF GOD

- GOD, THROUGH THE JEWS, WAS TEACHING MANKIND HOW TO WORSHIP GOD VIA HIS TABERNACLE
 - EACH SACRIFICE HAD A SPECIFIC EMPHASIS CONCERNING THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE BELIEVER WHICH WAS UNKNOWN UNTIL THE CEREMONIAL LAW WAS GIVEN
 - MAN'S EXAMPLE OF WORSHIP WAS NIMROD AS OVERLORD AT BABEL WHICH ENSLAVED ALL PEOPLE EXCEPT FOR GOD'S DIRECT INTERVENTION (GE 10:6-14;11:1-9)
 - MAN WAS WORSHIPPING SATAN; IT WAS GOD'S EXAMPLE OF TRUE WORSHIP VIA THE JEWS THAT PERCOLATED THROUGHOUT THE ANCIENT KINGDOMS PREPARING MAN FOR THE COMING OF CHRIST IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME (1CO 10:19-21; EP 1:7-10)

JEW: PATHWAY FOR MESSIAH

- ACCORDING TO PAUL, THE MOST IMPORTANT FUNCTION OF THE JEWS WAS AS THE CONDUIT FOR THE CHRIST TO COME IN THE FLESH
 - GOD **NEVER** ACTS IN REBELLION, NOT EVEN AGAINST THE MASTER OF REBELLION HIMSELF: SATAN
 - EACH OF THE COVENANTS LAID A COHERENT FOUNDATION FOR CHRIST TO COME LEGITIMATELY INTO THE WORLD AS A PERSON AND UPON HIS RETURN, AS KING OVER THE POWERS OF EARTH
 - THE ADOPTION, THE GLORY, THE LAW, THE PROMISES, THE PATRIARCHS AND EVEN THEIR GENESIS WAS IN PLACE TO IDENTIFY THE MESSIAH WHO WAS PROMISED FROM THE BEGINNING (GE 3:15)
 - PAUL AGAIN BREAKS OUT INTO A DOXOLOGY OF GOD'S WONDERFUL PLAN FOR SALVATION

BUT, DID GOD'S PLAN FAIL?

- IF GOD'S WONDERFUL PLAN WAS IN PLACE, THEN WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MAJORITY OF THE JEWS WHO WERE IN REBELLION AND DIED IN THEIR SINS: DID GOD'S WORD FAIL?
 - NO, PAUL ANSWERS FOR NOT EVERYONE WHO WAS PHYSICALLY DESCENDED FROM ABRAHAM WAS SPIRITUALLY DESCENDED FROM ABRAHAM
 - THOUGH PAUL DOES NOT USE THE LABELS: *TRUE JEWS* AND *FALSE JEWS* THIS IN ESSENCE IS WHAT HE IS STATING IN OUR PASSAGE {LAW OF EXCLUDED MIDDLE: NO THIRD POSITION}
 - ABRAHAM HAD TWO SONS: ISHMAEL AND ISAAC; ONE WAS AFTER THE FLESH AND THE OTHER WAS THE SON OF PROMISE – PAUL USES THIS AS AN EXAMPLE TO ILLUSTRATE THIS CONCEPT (GA 4:21-31)

HAGAR AND SARAH – LAW AND GRACE

- PAUL USES THE OLD TESTAMENT CONFLICT BETWEEN HAGAR AND SARAH AS A METAPHOR OF EARTHLY AND HEAVENLY JERUSALEM AS A METAPHOR BETWEEN SLAVERY TO THE LAW AND GRACE: FREEDOM FROM THE CONDEMNATION OF THE LAW
 - THE *FALSE JEWS* ARE OF EARTHLY JERUSALEM WHOSE ROOTS IS IN MOUNT SINAI, HOME OF THE LAW WHICH CAN ONLY CONDEMN; APPLIES TO ALL WHO ARE LOST {WORKS-BASED RELIGIONS}
 - SAVED JEWS, *TRUE JEWS*, LIKE ALL WHO ARE SAVED ARE CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE LIKE ISAAC AND BORN OF THE SPIRIT WHOSE CITY IS NOT OF EARTH BUT THE HEAVENLY JERUSALEM
 - ABRAHAM WAS TO CAST OUT HAGAR AND ISHMAEL WHICH TORMENTED THE CHILD OF PROMISE

THE POWER OF TWO THROUGHOUT SCRIPTURE

- AS DISCUSSED IN OTHER LESSONS: BIBLE IS REplete WITH COMPARISONS AND CONTRASTINGS BETWEEN TWO ENTITIES OR OBJECTS; PAULS USES THIS TECHNIQUE AGAIN
 - MANKIND HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIVIDED BETWEEN BELIEVERS AND NON-BELIEVERS
 - THERE WERE JEWS AND GENTILES
 - THERE ARE THOSE OF THE *NEW COVENANT* AND THOSE WHO REMAIN LOST
 - EVEN WITHIN THE JEWS THERE WERE ALWAYS *TRUE JEWS* {BELIEVERS} AND *FALSE JEWS* {LOST}
 - IN THE CHURCH THERE ARE SAVED BELIEVERS AND FALSE PROFESSORS OF FAITH
 - NOWHERE DOES PAUL STATE OR IMPLY THAT GOD GAVE HIS PROMISES TO THE JEWS TO GENTILES

EPILOGUE: QUESTION BEGGING AN ANSWER

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PAUL TACKLES THE *HARD* ISSUES

- PAUL DOES NOT SHIRK FROM THE HARD ISSUES THAT CAUSE LESSER MINDS TO STUMBLE
 - CHURCH HISTORY ILLUSTRATES THE BATTLES OF MAN OVER THE TRUTHS OF GOD; ESPECIALLY THE ISSUE BETWEEN ARMINIANISM OR SEMIPELAGIANISM, AND ELECTION
 - INTERWOVEN WITH PAUL'S DISCUSSION OF GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE JEWS DURING THE CURRENT DISPENSATION, *FIRST FRUITS*, IS HIS *MATTER-OF-FACT* DEFENSE OF ELECTION
 - TRUE DOCTRINE IS TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT BASED ON THE SCRIPTURES WHO PULLS THE MEANING *OUT* OF THE WORDS RATHER THAN READING ONE'S DESIRED MEANING INTO THE BIBLE, A COMMON PRACTICE TO ARRIVE AT ONE'S PREORDAINED OR DESIRED CONCLUSION: LOGICAL FALLACY; THIS ONLY RESULTS IN ERROR AND FALSE TEACHINGS PASSING AS TRUTH (1CO 2:14)