

“Jacob Loved; Esau Hated!”

Romans 9:6-16

<sup>6</sup> But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, <sup>7</sup> nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, ***“In Isaac your seed shall be called.”***

<sup>8</sup> That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. <sup>9</sup> For this *is* the word of promise: ***“At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.”***

<sup>10</sup> And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac <sup>11</sup> (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, ***“The older shall serve the younger.”*** <sup>13</sup> As it is written, ***“Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”***

<sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, ***“I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”*** <sup>16</sup> So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. Romans 9:6–16 (NKJV)

Examining the why of Israel’s rejection of Jesus Christ; First Reason –

God’s Choice

Not all Israel (National) is Israel (Spiritual)

Only those God chose!

*I. The failure of the Israelites was not a failure of God’s Word or Promise -*

<sup>6</sup> But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. Romans 9:6 A (NKJV)

1. *God's Word accomplishes its purposes –*

**<sup>3</sup> Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. Genesis 1:3 (NKJV)**

**<sup>11</sup> So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it. Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)**

2. *Yet the Word and its ministry has a two-fold purpose –*

**<sup>14</sup> Now thanks *be* to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.**

**<sup>15</sup> For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing. <sup>16</sup> To the one we are the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. ... 2 Corinthians 2:14–16 A (NKJV)**

*One of the issues for us is, we obviously like the purpose of MERCY, but the purpose of JUSTICE, which is right and good as well, we too often do not like. Both are part of God's perfection –*

**<sup>6</sup> And the LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup> keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing *the guilty*, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation." Exodus 34:6–7 (NKJV)**

**II. *They are not all Israel who are of Israel – ... For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, Romans 9:6 B***

*They are not all Israel, who are of Israel; meaning not every physical descendant of Jacob / Israel is a chosen, saved, child of God. God clearly chooses one while rejecting another ...*

1. *First example Abraham's children. Abraham's first born was Ishmael, but Isaac was Isaac was the child of promise :7*

**<sup>7</sup> nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "In Isaac your seed shall be called." Romans 9:7 (NKJV)**

A. *In verse :8 it is clearly stated -*

**<sup>8</sup> That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. Romans 9:8 (NKJV)**

B. *Sarah's son, not Hagar's, not Keturah's was the child of promise –*

**<sup>9</sup> For this *is* the word of promise: “*At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.*” Romans 9:9 (NKJV)**

C. *When told this Abraham had QUESTIONED God, even in joyous wonder –*

**<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, “Shall a *child* be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a *child*?” <sup>18</sup> And Abraham said to God, “Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!” Genesis 17:17–18 (NKJV)**

D. *Yet God was clear in His answer -*

**<sup>19</sup> Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.” Genesis 17:19 (NKJV)**

2. *Second example, God's choosing Jacob and rejecting Esau, this even more shows God's ELECTION, His, GOD's CHOICE, not both of Isaac's children were chosen –*

*III. God's loving Jacob, but hating Esau, has as its stated purpose the demonstrating of the fact of God's election –*

**<sup>10</sup> And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, even by our father Isaac <sup>11</sup> (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), <sup>12</sup> it was said to her, “*The older shall serve the younger.*” <sup>13</sup> As it is written, “*Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.*” Romans 9:6–13 (NKJV)**

1. *Rebecca & Isaac were one couple, so Jacob & Esau had the same parents -*  
**:10**

*This is a more powerful argument because Isaac and Ishmael had different mothers ...*

2. *Before they were born, they were twins Rebecca was told by God - <sup>12</sup> it was said to her,*  
***“The older shall serve the younger.”***

**<sup>21</sup> Now Isaac pleaded with the LORD for his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD granted his plea, and Rebekah his wife conceived. <sup>22</sup> But the children struggled together within her; and she said, “If *all* is well, why *am I* like this?” So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup> And the LORD said to her: “Two nations *are* in your womb, Two peoples shall be separated from your body; One people shall be stronger than the other, And the older shall serve the younger.”**  
**Genesis 25:21–23 (NKJV)**

3. *Note it is stated also, not only before they were born but <sup>11</sup> (for the children not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls)*
  - A. *Point is, one was not better than the other, God did not choose Jacob because he was better than Esau, they were both BAD, they were both SINNERS! They were equals you could say, twins (though not identical) they had the same parents!*
  - B. *They had the same environment, same wealth or poverty growing up! Isaac preferred Esau / Rebecca preferred Jacob... Each had one parent favoring them!*

*Both were born in sin, children, ultimately of Adam ...*

#### *IV. God's Love for Jacob was real and so was His hatred Esau –*

**<sup>13</sup> As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”  
Romans 9:13 (NKJV)**

1. *The Idea of hatred can be expressed as LESS LOVE and I have heard this preached about Esau but hatred defined “less love” is not in any way less hatred ... it is hatred just expressed a different way for instance*

A. *Hatred can be expressed by running someone over with your car, maybe even repeatedly!*

B. *Or hatred can be expressed by simply ignoring someone, not making an effort to help or save them! This second version is what is often claimed for Esau, but it does not mean Esau is not now burning in Hell!*

2. *In the original instance in Malachi consider the context –*

**<sup>2</sup> “I have loved you,” says the LORD. “Yet you say, ‘In what way have You loved us?’ Was not Esau Jacob’s brother?” Says the LORD. “Yet Jacob I have loved; <sup>3</sup> But Esau I have hated, And laid waste his mountains and his heritage For the jackals of the wilderness.” <sup>4</sup> Even though Edom has said, “We have been impoverished, But we will return and build the desolate places,” Thus says the LORD of hosts: “They may build, but I will throw down; They shall be called the Territory of Wickedness, And the people against whom the LORD will have indignation forever. Malachi 1:2–6 (NKJV)**

A. *Now, what we see is this love / hate continued beyond the individuals, to nations, Israel was loved, privileged but Esau / Edom was despised thrown down ...*

B. *Some will argue that is the entirety of what Romans 9 is about, but they divorce the passage from Paul’s main point, remember he is explaining why many individual Israelites are not saved –*

*They had privileges that Esau / Edom lacked, but like Edom, they were never truly Israel –*

**<sup>6</sup> But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, Romans 9:6 (NKJV)**

*C. They had forfeited those privileges in this they may be both “like” worse than Edom / Esau –*

- *Like Esau in that he also did not value spiritual privileges –*

**<sup>16</sup> lest there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. Hebrews 12:16 (NKJV)**

- *Worse than Esau in that they seem to have had more spiritual light than Esau -*

**<sup>20</sup> Then He began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, because they did not repent: <sup>21</sup> “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. <sup>22</sup> But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. <sup>23</sup> And you, Capernaum, who are exalted to heaven, will be brought down to Hades; for if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. <sup>24</sup> But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.” Matthew 11:20–24 (NKJV)**

*D. They rejected Jesus / but the reason at the end is given, they were not chosen –*

**<sup>14</sup> “For many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 22:14 (NKJV)**

*See, our sin takes us to Hell but it is God’s grace and mercy that gets us to Heaven –*

**<sup>14</sup> What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! <sup>15</sup> For He says to Moses, “*I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.*” <sup>16</sup> So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. Romans 9:14–16 (NKJV)**

V. *How does Romans 9:16* <sup>16</sup> **So then it is not of him who wills, ... work?**

*Consider – Isaiah 45:22*

<sup>22</sup> **“Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and *there is no other.* Isaiah 45:22 (NKJV)**

1. *The person who believes in Jesus, who believes in God, looks up to God and is saved, that is faith.*
2. *The person who believes in so-called free-will looks up to God and says to himself, He (God) cannot save me without my cooperation, my help, I NEED to look within to my real savior or second savior Free will! He says there must be something about ME, better about ME that makes ME superior to the person in Hell! God chooses ME because of ....*

*What makes the difference between Peter, who denied he even knew Jesus and Judas who betrayed Jesus? God’s MERCY!*

*Do we make choices? Yes! Do we make good and bad choices? Yes!*

*Do our choices SAVE US? Or does God’s mercy?*

*“Oh, but pastor it’s a little of both, He shows mercy, but I choose too, He is the Author but I am the finisher of my faith!”*

*Is that what the Bible teaches?*

<sup>2</sup> **looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:2 (NKJV)**

<sup>19</sup> **We love Him because He first loved us. 1 John 4:19 (NKJV)**

*Arnold A. Brevick*