

## ROMANS 9:6-13

### Election – How God Chooses

#### Backdrop: God's Dealings with Israel

- God chose a man named Abraham out of all the people on the earth. God made unconditional promises (covenants) to him
  - Gen 12:1-3 – to bless him and to bless all the world through him
  - Gen 17:6-8 – many offspring, a forever homeland, to be “their God” forever (“everlasting covenant”)
    - [ Gal 3:14 – *so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.* ]
  - Gen 22:17-18 – to make Abraham’s offspring prominent among the nations and a blessing to all others on earth
- Abraham initially had 2 sons – Ishmael & Isaac. Though both were the “offspring of Abraham,” God chose only Isaac to be the heir of the promises, and reiterated the promises to Isaac (Gen 17:19, 26:3-4)
- Isaac had 2 sons – twins Esau & Jacob. God chose only Jacob to be the heir of the promises, and reiterated them to Jacob (Gen 28:13-15, 35:11-12). God renamed Jacob as “Israel,” from whom come the Israelites (Jews)
- God gave many other promises and blessings to the Jews (v. 4-5). All Jews are beneficiaries of many of these, but as Paul acknowledges in v. 1-3, only some are receiving the eternal blessings...

Objection: since God made eternal promises to Israel and many Jews have rejected the Gospel, either Paul’s Gospel is false or God’s promises to Israel have failed.

#### 1) Consider Isaac – v. 6-9

a. Assertion: 6a – It is not as though the word of God (to the Jews) has failed.

b. Rationale: 6b – for not all who are from Israel, belong to “Israel”  
 7a – not, because they are his offspring are all “children of Abraham”

Proof: 7b – but, *through Isaac shall your offspring be named* (Gen 21:12)

c. Rationale: 8a – all the children of the flesh, are not the “children of God” (adoption)  
 8b – but the “children of promise” (counted as offspring)

Proof: 9 – for the promise said, *“I will return, and Sarah will have a son”* (Gen 18:10,14)

#### Conclusions:

##### 1. God’s Election has always been part of His Ways

Gen 17:18-19 – *No, but Sarah your wife will bear a son, and you shall call his name Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him.*

##### 2. God’s Election does not follow human categories

##### 3. God’s Election is not dependent upon human actions

Wrong Assumptions so far:

- God didn't choose Ishmael because of his parentage
- God didn't choose Ishmael because of his works

**2) Consider Jacob – v. 10-13**

Can't base choice of Jacob on parentage! – v. 10

Can't base choice of Jacob on works! – v. 11

*Deut 4:37 – because God loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them...*

*Deut 7:7-8 – It is not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set His love on you and choose you... but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers.*

Conclusions:

1. God's Election is connected with His love – v. 13
2. God's Election is not based on anything about the person – v. 11a
3. God Election is so that Salvation will belong to the Lord – v. 11b

2 Chron 20:17

Psa 18:2

Psa 27:1

Psa 37:39

Psa 68:20

Lam 3:26

Jonah 2:9

Rom 8:38-39

Rom 11:36

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*KSN [Isaac, Jacob / soup, trick, race]*

Praxis

1. Why is the Doctrine of Election necessary for our salvation? Review Rom 3:9-18
2. How does the Doctrine of Election inform our worship? Review Rom 4:1-8
3. How does the Doctrine of Election encourage our evangelism? See Rom 10:14-17 (also 1 Thess 1:4-7, 2 Tim 2:8-10)
4. What questions does Paul's presentation of Election raise in your mind