

**BOOK OF ROMANS**  
**EIGHT SPECIAL BLESSINGS OF THE JEW**  
**ROMANS 9:1-5**

**INTRODUCTION**

Remember how we saw in *Romans 3:1*, PAUL asked the question: “*What advantage, then, hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?*”

PAUL’S answer is found in *Romans 3:2* –“*Much every way: chiefly because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.*”  
(i.e. *They have been entrusted with the very words of God.*)

*Chapters 9-11* of ROMANS raise, and to a degree, answer important questions for us regarding what our views of JEWISH people are to be today.

This is very important given what is currently going on in both ISRAEL and the world right now and given the current negative sentiment towards both ISRAEL and the JEWS by the vast majority of folks in this world!

Paul’s question and answer from *Romans 3:1-2* is followed up here in *Romans 9:1-5*. (READ TEXT)

Here we see EIGHT SPECIAL BLESSINGS that a person born JEWISH has to draw on. **Some things to keep in mind though:**

- a. These BLESSINGS do not mean that a JEWISH person is any better than anyone else in the world.
- b. These BLESSINGS do not give JEWISH people a special “in” with GOD in respect to SALVATION. The WAY OF SALVATION is the same for all people! It is BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH in the LORD JESUS CHRIST!

The BLESSINGS that PAUL lists here belong to those born JEWISH!

**Who are the ISRAELITES?**— They are descendants from ISRAEL, a/k/a JACOB. (*Genesis 32:28*) They were honored by having such an ancestor, and by bearing a name that distinguishes them as one of his descendants.

*Exodus 19:4*—“*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles’ wings, and brought you unto myself.*”

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**I. THE ADOPTION BY GOD AS SONS.**

It was their high privilege to be ADOPTED by the LORD and to be regarded as HIS special people! (*Deuteronomy 7:6-9*)

*Hosea 11:1*—“*When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.*”

The O.T SCRIPTURES communicate to us that the nation of ISRAEL had been specially set apart by the LORD GOD above all the other nations and that they were HIS children.

We need to note that this ADOPTION as sons and daughters prefigured and pointed to our ADOPTION as the CHILDREN OF GOD! But, our ADOPTION as the CHILDREN OF GOD is as different as night and day, as compared to the JEWISH nation’s ADOPTION. Our ADOPTION means that we are SAVED and that HEAVEN is our home. The JEWISH nation’s ADOPTION as sons did not have this meaning for them either as a nation or individually!

**II. THE DIVINE GLORY.**

As a nation, the ISRAELITES had beheld the GLORY CLOUD OF GOD! (Rabbis refer to it as the SHEKINAH GLORY OF GOD)–

That PILLAR OF THE CLOUD was to them the DIVINE PRESENCE that went with them from Egypt! We see that DIVINE GLORY mentioned in *Exodus 13:21-22*— *pillar of a cloud by day, pillar of fire by night.*

The LORD’S DIVINE GLORY was also seen in *Exodus 24:15-18* at MOUNT SINAI as MOSES went up into the MOUNT and met with the LORD there!

We see it also in *Exodus 34:28-35* that after meeting with the LORD for 40 days and nights, MOSES’ face was so RADIANT and BRIGHT that he would have to veil his face.

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Later, as the **TABERNACLE** was completed and **DEDICATED**, that **GLORY CLOUD of GOD'S PRESENCE** covered the **TABERNACLE** as the **GLORY** of the **LORD FILLED** the **TABERNACLE!** (*Exodus 40:32-38*)

Understand that the word "*Shekinah*," is the transliteration of a **HEBREW** word that is not found in the **BIBLE** but used in many of the **JEWISH** writings to speak of the **LORD'S PRESENCE**.

The term means "*that which dwells*," and is implied throughout the **BIBLE** whenever it refers to **GOD'S** nearness either in a person or an object, or just **HIS** glory alone. It is often used in combination with the word "*glory*" to speak of the **MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD!**

**SCRIPTURE** says of the wife of **ELI'S** son, **PHINEHAS**:  
*1 Samuel 4:21—“And she named the child Ichabod saying, The glory is departed from Israel: because the ark of God was taken.”*

In *1 Kings 8:10-11*, we see the **SHEKINAH GLORY** at the feast of the dedication of the **TEMPLE** after the **ARK OF THE COVENANT** was brought in.

So, **PAUL** is saying that this having been able to see the **GLORY** is one of the great privileges, above other people that the **ISRAELITES** have had in their history!

**JESUS CHRIST** revealed the **GLORY OF GOD** to men on the earth with **HIS FIRST ADVENT!**

*John 1:14— “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”*

*2 Corinthians 4:6— “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”*

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**III. THE COVENANTS.**

**GOD** enters into relationships with people by means of **COVENANTS**.

With no other nation or distinct people group did **GOD** make **COVENANTS**, yet with the **ISRAELITES** he did—entering into a relationship with them by such means.

Abrahamic Covenant—Genesis 12

Priestly Covenant—Numbers 25

Davidic Covenant—2 Samuel 7

New Covenant—Jeremiah 31

For us who are the followers of **JESUS CHRIST**, we are in relationship with **GOD** by means of the **NEW, BETTER, SUPERIOR COVENANT**, instituted by **CHRIST and HIS SHED BLOOD AT CALVARY!** (*See Hebrews 8*)

For us who are **CHRISTIANS** the **BLOOD OF CHRIST** has been spiritually applied to us and we have been cleansed of all of our sins and have access to **GOD** because of **CHRIST'S** work in our lives.

**IV. THE RECEIVING OF THE LAW.**

On **MOUNT SINAI** the **LORD** gave the **LAW** to **ISRAEL** by **MOSES!** *Exodus 20*;

*Psalm 147:19—He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel.*

It was to the **JEWS** that **GOD** gave **THE LAW**—that they might know **HIS HOLY STANDARDS!** Understand that devout **JEWS** treasure **THE LAW OF GOD**. Yet **THE LAW** cannot save!

What the **LAW** does is to show a person their **SINFULNESS** and prove to them just how much of a **SINNER** they are and how much they need **JESUS** to be their **SAVIOUR!**

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**V. TEMPLE WORSHIP.**

The **TEMPLE** service was regarded by them as the pride and ornament of their nation. Of all the nations of the world, only the **JEW**s had a **TEMPLE** in which the true **GOD MANIFESTED HIMSELF** in a special way.

In **CHRIST**, this too has been fulfilled when **HE** came and dwelt with us in **HIS FLESH** and is also fulfilled in **BELIEVERS** who are the **TEMPLE OF GOD**—for by the **HOLY SPIRIT**, the **SPIRIT OF CHRIST** now dwells in each one who has given their hearts and lives to **GOD** in **CHRIST**.

**VI. THE PROMISES.**

Another privilege that **JEW**s had and have by nature of their nationality is the **PROMISES OF GOD**. **PROMISES** that find their way back into the earliest chapters of the book of **GENESIS!** (*Genesis 3:15, etc*). **PROMISES** such as **LAND, SEED, BLESSING, BEING MADE INTO A GREAT NATION!**

The **O.T. SCRIPTURES** are full of the **PROMISES OF GOD**, many already fulfilled, many fulfilled in **JESUS CHRIST**, and some yet to be fulfilled.

My understanding of the **SCRIPTURES** is that **GOD** still has some promises to be fulfilled in regards the **LAND** and **NATION** of **ISRAEL!** These are all **PROMISES** that **GOD** will keep—for **GOD** is not yet finished with the **NATION OF ISRAEL**. (note *Romans 11*)

**VII. THE PATRIARCHS.**

The **JEW**s have been honored with a **GREAT ANCESTRY!** They are descended from **ABRAHAM, ISAAC, JACOB**, etc. On this they highly valued themselves. *“We be Abraham’s seed!”* See *Luke 3:7-9*

The point is that a **JEWISH** person cannot hide behind the assertion that he can trace his lineage to **ABRAHAM**—and somehow think that this earns him a ticket to **HEAVEN**.

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However, **PAUL** still does say, a special thing, at least in this life, a **JEWISH** person does have a link to **ABRAHAM** and the other fathers of the nation. However, this special link is only good in this life and is really only good if the **JEWISH** person in question is led to exercise the same saving faith that **ABRAHAM** and the other fathers exercised.

**VIII. FROM THE JEWS THE HUMAN ANCESTRY OF CHRIST, WHO IS GOD OVER ALL, IS TRACED.**

One of the great privileges a person born a **JEW** has is that they have the same nationality the **SAVIOR** of the world had. **JESUS**, being **GOD IN THE FLESH**, was a **JEW**—this is a point we sometimes forget.

Out of all the nations, **GOD** chose **ISRAEL** to manifest **HIMSELF** in the flesh through the **EMMANUEL**. The fact that their nation gave birth to the long-expected **MESSIAH**, the hope of the world, should have been the crowning and most exalted privilege of the **JEW**s! But by and large, they rejected the **MESSIAH!**

The use of this language *“concerning the flesh”* supposes that there was a higher nature in respect to which **HE** was not of their nation. *Acts 2:39—“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”*

**Acts 3:25-26; 13:32-33**

**Colossians 1:15-19**

**HE** is over all Creation

**HE** is over the Church

**CONCLUSION**

What advantage is their in being a Jew? Here in our text we have seen 8 blessings that Jews have, that no other nationality has!

However...

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1. By and large those who are Jewish have not taken advantage of these blessings that are theirs. The evidence for such is that they have not turned to Christ, to whom all of the listed privileges point and refer.
2. When you and I run down the list of these privileges that are uniquely Jewish in nature, what is very evident is that there is a fulfillment in Christ for each one. Each one leads to Christ and was intended to lead the Jews to Christ. Yet by-and-large what has happened? Most of those who are Jewish have rejected Jesus.
3. Rather than being led to Christ by these, they have put their confidence in these 8 things, counting upon them for their salvation.

In **Philippians 3:3-9** Paul speaks of how he put no confidence in the flesh and how whatever he once considered to be to his profit he forsook it and counted it as a loss for the sake of knowing Christ.

The tragic mistake of Paul's Jewish brethren was to put confidence in the flesh.... (Today people who are Gentiles do the same.....)