

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

Introduction

When the **JEW**s of **JESUS'** day, by-and-large, both **REJECTED** and **CRUCIFIED JESUS, THE SON OF GOD**, did that mean that **GOD'S PURPOSES** were **FRUSTRATED** and **HIS PLAN DEFEATED**?

In our text tonight, the **APOSTLE PAUL** lays out an argument from ancient **BIBLICAL HISTORY** to prove that answer to be **"NO!"** That's in spite of this present day situation of **REJECTION** by the majority of **ABRAHAM'S PHYSICAL SEED**.

Through **GOD'S CHOICE** of **ISAAC** but not his brother **ISHMAEL**, and **JACOB**, instead of his older brother **ESAU**, **GOD** established the precedent of **HIS RIGHT TO CHOOSE** the **PERSON** and thus the **PEOPLE** of **HIS PROMISE!**

The initial **DISCIPLES** of **JESUS** were **JEW**s! It was the **FAITHFUL REMNANT OF ISRAEL** as always that became **HEIR** to the **PROMISE!**

It was this **FAITHFUL REMNANT OF ISRAEL**, this **ISRAEL** within **ISRAEL**, that initially brought the **GOSPEL** to the **GENTILES!**

This **FAITHFUL REMNANT** were the **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL** and the **CHILDREN OF PROMISE** who bore the fruit of **SPIRITUAL CHILDREN** who became **HEIRS** to the original **PROMISE** to **ABRAHAM!**

The **PLAN OF GOD** is not limited to merely **PHYSICAL DESCENDANTS** of **ABRAHAM**. It is **GOD'S CHOICE** that determines who will be the **CHILD OF PROMISE!**

I. WE SEE THERE IS AN ISRAEL WITHIN ISRAEL. (Vs. 6-8)
Verse 6 again introduces the concept of a **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL**. **PAUL** did not intend that his statement (*in verse 2*) with regard to his heaviness and continual sorrow be interpreted as if he meant that **GOD'S WORD—HIS PROMISE** with respect to **ISRAEL**—had failed. **GOD'S WORD** never fails!

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

Isaiah 55:11—"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

Matthew 5:18—"For verily I say unto you, till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

So the **APOSTLE** explains that although a marvelous **PROMISE** had indeed been made to **ISRAEL**, that **PROMISE** was never realized in the entire nation, but only in the **GODLY REMNANT OF ISRAEL!** (*Cf. Romans 2:28-29*)

The **FAILURE** of **ALL JEWS** to **BELIEVE** the **GOSPEL OF CHRIST** did not mean that **GOD'S WORD** had **FAILED!** All **ISRAEL** is not the **TRUE** or **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL!** There is an **ISRAEL** within **ISRAEL**. (*Vs 6b*)

All the natural descendants of **ABRAHAM** are not necessarily the **TRUE SONS OF GOD**. All the descendants of **ABRAHAM** do not unconditionally **POSSESS** the **PROMISE**. Only those who **WALK BY FAITH** are the **TRUE SONS OF ABRAHAM** (*Galatians 3:6-9; Romans 4:9-25*) and **POSSESS** the **PROMISE**. So, the **APOSTLE** distinguishes between the **NATURAL SEED** and **SPIRITUAL SEED** of **ABRAHAM**.

PAUL knew that the **WORD OF GOD** had not failed, though most of **ISRAEL** had **NOT BELIEVED** in **JESUS CHRIST**. This is true because **GOD'S PROMISES** were obviously not intended for all who could boast of **RACIAL DESCENT** from **ABRAHAM** [proven in *verse 7*].

So three **OLD TESTAMENT** illustrations of the principle of **GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE**. (**ISAAC** and **ISHMAEL**, *9:7b-9*; **JACOB** and **ESAU**, *vs. 10-13*; and **PHARAOH**, *vs. 14-18*)

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

In this message, we will deal with the first two which show that **GOD** made a **SOVEREIGN CHOICE** among the **PHYSICAL DESCENDANTS** of **ABRAHAM** in establishing the **SPIRITUAL LINE OF PROMISE**.

Verse 7 and the verses that follow confirm that **NATURAL DESCENT** from **ABRAHAM** does not secure a portion in **GOD'S PROMISED INHERITANCE**. *Verse 7* designates the **CHILD OF PROMISE—ISAAC**.

ABRAHAM had two children according to the **FLESH**, **ISHMAEL** and **ISAAC**, but only **ISAAC** inherited the **PROMISE** since he was the child specified in the **PROMISE** which **PAUL** quotes from *Genesis 21:12*.

We know that **ISHMAEL**, [born to **HAGAR**] and the six sons of **KETURAH** (*Genesis 25:1-4*) were **ABRAHAM'S FLESHLY DESCENDANTS**, but they were not counted as **ABRAHAM'S** children in the **LINE OF PROMISE**. Instead, as **GOD** told **ABRAHAM** (*Gen. 21:12*), "...for in Isaac shall thy seed be called."

Now **ISHMAEL** was just as much a child of **ABRAHAM** as **ISAAC** was. Yet no **JEW** would consider the **DESCENDANTS** of **ISHMAEL** to be children of **GOD'S PROMISE** to **ABRAHAM**. The **COVENANT** relationship continued on only through **ISAAC**, the child of **PROMISE**!

We learn about the **CHILDREN OF PROMISE** in *verse 8*. "*That is*" means "*what the Old Testament is saying signifies this.*" The children born of the physical lineage (lit., "*the born ones of the flesh*") of **ABRAHAM** are not necessarily the "**CHILDREN OF GOD**". The children of **PROMISE** are those who, like **ABRAHAM**, **BELIEVE THE PROMISE OF GOD** and are therefore **ABRAHAM'S SPIRITUAL OFFSPRING**!

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

When the **BIBLE** says "*the children of the PROMISE*" are "*counted for the seed*" (i.e. **CHILDREN OF GOD**), it is not just referring to **NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS**. **PAUL** is specifically meaning the **REMNANT** of **FAITHFUL ISRAEL**.

To be a **PHYSICAL DESCENDANT** of **ABRAHAM** is not sufficient; the **CHILDREN OF PROMISE** are those who **BELIEVE GOD** (i.e. **THOSE WHOSE LIVES ARE CHARACTERIZED BY FAITH IN GOD! Cf. Romans 4:3, 22-24**). The **CHILDREN OF PROMISE** are the **SPIRITUAL CHILDREN** of **ABRAHAM**!
WE SEE THERE IS AN ISRAEL WITHIN ISRAEL!

II. WE SEE GOD'S CHOSEN MAN! (Vs. 9)

So, who constitutes the true **ISRAEL** is not because of **RACIAL HERITAGE**, but because of the **SUPERNATURAL ENDOWMENT** of **GOD'S PROMISE**.

That is the point of the quotation in *verse 9*! The **LORD** gave the **PROMISE** to **ABRAHAM**!

The **LORD'S WORD** in the form of a beautiful **COVENANT PROMISE** came to **ABRAHAM**. This **WORD OF PROMISE** that the **LORD** gave **ABRAHAM** is that he and **SARAH** would have a **SON**.

That was a **PROMISE** that, humanly speaking, seemed so absurd to 90 year-old **SARAH** that she initially she laughed at it! (*Gen. 18:13*) Though **PHYSICALLY** it was impossible, **ISAAC** was conceived in response to the **PROMISE OF GOD**. This **PROMISE OF GOD** became the **ENABLING** for **ISAAC** to be born.

The **LORD'S** assurance that the **PROMISE** would come through the un-conceived **ISAAC**, not **ISHMAEL**, was given to **ABRAHAM**.

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

We see that the **LORD** has complete freedom to act as **HE** chooses. **HE** decided that **ISAAC** rather than **ISHMAEL** would be the ancestor of the **MESSIAH**, the child born of **GOD'S PROMISE** rather than son of natural consideration. What **GOD** decreed is what would happen.

III. WE SEE GOD'S CHOSEN PLAN! (Vs 10-13)

The second **OLD TESTAMENT** illustration of **GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE** comes from **ISAAC'S** children. When **ISAAC** had kids, he had twins **JACOB** and **ESAU**, but only one was **CHOSEN**. (Vs 10)

The **DESCENT OF THE PROMISE** this time concerned children of the same mother and father. Remember **ISAAC** and **ISHMAEL** had different mothers. **ISHMAEL'S** mother was **HAGAR**, the slave woman, and **ISAAC'S** mother was **SARAH**, the free born wife of **ABRAHAM**.

Verses 10-13 describe **GOD'S CHOICE** between two brothers who had the same father and mother who were born minutes apart. Though the twins **JACOB** and **ESAU** had the same father and mother [and even the same grandparents] a different destiny was divinely appointed for one.

This illustration emphasizes **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY** even more than the first since it involves **GOD'S CHOICE** of one twin over another. Apparently **GOD PURPOSED** to establish this principle of **HIS RIGHT TO CHOOSE** at the beginning of **HIS** relationship with **HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE!**

GOD has **COMPLETE FREEDOM** to act as **HE CHOOSES!** This is clearly illustrated in **HIS DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL** in general and the **LINEAGE OF CHRIST** through **ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB** in particular.

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

GOD decided that **ISAAC** rather than **ISHMAEL** and **JACOB** rather than **ESAU** would be the **LINE** that **MESSIAH** would be born through. The children born of the **PROMISE**, rather than **NATURAL** consideration.

Verse 11 references the fact that **GOD** made a distinction between the twins before they were born, before their characters were shaped.

Even as **GOD SOVEREIGNLY CHOSE ISAAC** over **ISHMAEL, HE SOVEREIGNLY CHOSE JACOB**, the younger of **ISAAC'S** sons. This **CHOICE** was made before either good or evil actions on the part of the **CHILDREN**. Before the twins in **REBEKAH'S** womb came to birth, **GOD** chose **JACOB** rather than **ESAU** even though **ESAU** was the firstborn.

This demonstrated that **GOD'S SOVEREIGN CHOICE** was NOT by **WORKS**, even **FORESEEN WORKS**, but by **HIM WHO CALLS! GOD'S PURPOSE (8:28; 9:11)**, and not man's **WORKS (4:2-6)**, is the basis of **HIS ELECTION** or **CHOICE!**

It becomes very obvious that simply being able to trace one's **NATURAL LINEAGE** all the way back to **ABRAHAM** does not necessarily mean that the **PROMISE** given to **ABRAHAM** is yours also. Being able to reference **GOOD DEEDS** also does not mean you have **RECEIVED THE PROMISE**, for the ground of **CHOICE** was not based on the **DEEDS** of the twins!

GOD'S PLAN and **PURPOSE** is the determining factor in who receives **HIS PROMISED MESSIANIC BLESSING!**

Verse 12 references the fact that **REBECCA** was informed of **GOD'S CHOICE** before their birth. That "*The elder will serve the younger*" was **DIVINE CHOICE**. The priority of birth was disregarded by **GOD**. The younger brother was chosen over the natural heir, the older brother. Claims of rights as seen by man and their laws are futile before **GOD!**

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

Now **ESAU**, the older, did not actually serve **JACOB**, his younger twin; but **ESAU'S DESCENDANTS**, the **EDOMITES**, did!
(1 Sam. 14:47; 2 Sam. 8:14; 1 Kings 11:15-16; 22:47; 2 Kings 14:7)

To clinch the argument *Malachi 1:2-3* is quoted in *verse 13*.
The original context refers to the nations of **ISRAEL** and **EDOM** rather than the individual ancestors **JACOB** and **ESAU**.

EDOM incurred **GOD'S** wrath because of their ungodly conduct toward **ISRAEL** in the day of **ISRAEL'S** calamity (*Ps. 137:7; Isa. 34:5-7; Jer. 49:7ff; Ezek. 25:1ff; Ob. 10ff*). **GOD'S** love is so great for **HIS PEOPLE** of **PROMISE** that by comparison **HE** hates those who have **NOT** received the **PROMISE**.

Now understand that **GOD** didn't exclude **ESAU** from knowing and loving **HIM**. **GOD** saves all who **BELIEVE** on **HIM**. Yet **GOD** has reserved for **HIMSELF** the right to **CHOOSE** the **LINEAGE** or **MAN OF HIS PROMISE!** So even though we may not understand **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**, we know that **HIS CHOICES** are good, even when we don't understand **HIS** reasons.

GOD'S HATE is particularly troublesome for some. It should be borne in mind that the **PROPHET** is writing of the people of **JACOB** and **ESAU**, with particular reference to the **EDOMITE'S** refusal to come to **ISRAEL'S** aid at a time of difficulty.

But, **GOD'S "LOVE"** for **JACOB** was revealed in **HIS CHOICE** of **JACOB** and **GOD'S "HATRED"** for **ESAU** was seen in **HIS REJECTING** **ESAU** for the **LINE OF PROMISE**. **HATRED** in this sense is not absolute but relative to a **HIGHER CHOICE**.
Cf. Luke 14:26

**BOOK OF ROMANS
GOD'S CHOICES
ROMANS 9:6-13**

CONCLUSION

So, the argument is that the **CHILDREN OF PROMISE**, the **ISRAEL WITHIN ISRAEL**, doesn't come from natural birth, lineage, or works. For **GOD** has made distinctions between **WHO HE WILL ACCEPT** and **WHO HE WILL NOT!**

A **JEW** would thoroughly understand and accept the argument so far. The **ARABS** are the **DESCENDANTS OF ISHMAEL** who was the flesh and blood son of **ABRAHAM**. The **JEWS** though would never have said that the **ARABS** belonged to the **CHOSEN PEOPLE!**

The **EDOMITES** were the **DESCENDANTS OF ESAU** and **ESAU** was a true son of the **SON OF PROMISE, ISAAC**. No **JEW** though would ever have said that the **EDOMITES** had any share in the **CHOSEN PEOPLE!** From a **JEWISH** point of view **PAUL** has made his point.

PAUL is **NOT** teaching **UNCONDITIONAL ELECTION!** He is making an argument for **GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**, for **GOD'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE TO WHOM HE GIVES HIS PROMISE!** It is an argument that the **JEW** would understand.

Let me summarize in closing here:

GOD has **SOVEREIGNLY CHOSEN A MAN, HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, JESUS CHRIST** and **HE HAS CHOSEN ALL THOSE** who are **"IN HIM."**

GOD has a **CHOSEN MAN** and those who **BY FAITH CHOOSE TO BELIEVE ON HIM, THEREBY RECEIVING HIM AS THEIR SAVIOUR AND LORD**, become **CHILDREN OF THE PROMISE!**

GOD has established the precedent of **HIS RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE PERSON** and thus **THE PEOPLE OF HIS PROMISE!**