

14. The Letter to the Romans

I. Introduction: What about Israel and God's fidelity to the choice of Israel?

II. The Results of Justification, continued (Romans 8) The Spirit of God is at work in believers, the spirit of adoption which makes us children and heirs of God (8:1-17). A new creation (8:18-25) The help of the Spirit and God's plan (8:6-27) The help of the Spirit (vv. 26-27) God's will and plan (vv. 28-30) Nothing can separate us from God's love (8:31-39). A question (vv. 34-35) And an answer (vv. 38-39)

III. The Mystery of God's Election of Israel (Chapters 9-11) Note on Paul's use of scripture. Paul's Introduction: The Privileges of Israel (9:1-5) In a diatribe, a conversation with an imaginary interlocutor, Paul says that God has freely chosen a remnant of Israel (9:1-29). Abraham, of whom the children of the promise are counted as descendants (vv. 6-13) Moses and the Pharaoh: God shows compassion on those whom he chooses (vv. 14-18) The potter (vv. 19-24) The prophets: Hosea (2:25; 2:1) and Isaiah (28:16)

The Unbelief of Israel (9:30-10:21): They did not strive for righteousness based on faith. Christ proved to be a stumbling block for them (Isa 28:16) (w. 30-33). Paul's prayer to God for them in light of the fact that Christ is the end of the law (10:1-4) Salvation is for all who confess Christ on their lips and believe in him in their heart. Isa 28:16 says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." Joel 3:5 says, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

However, the Jews had a chance, as Ps 18:5 says. Jews are jealous (Deut 32:21), but the God of Israel has been found by those that did not seek him (Isa 65:1). Yes, the Jews had a chance (Isa 65:2). The rejection of Israel is not final (11:1-36). Learn from history (vv.1-10) Paul has pride in Israel, but Elijah pleaded with God against Israel (1 Kings 19:10-18), and the Lord said that he would leave a remnant of 7000 who had not worshiped Baal (vv.1 1-6). Scripture says that the Israelites were sluggish (Deut 29:4), their eyes and ears were closed (Isa 29:10), and they stumbled (Ps 68:23-24).

The Israelites will be included and how great that is (vv. 11-13) A word to the Gentiles. Holiness is catchy; the example of the batch of dough and the root of the tree (vv. 13-16) The example of the olive tree (vv. 17-24) Understanding the mystery (vv.25-36) When the full complement of Gentiles has entered, all Israel will be saved (Isa 59:20; 27:9) (vv. 25-32). How wonderful is the incomprehensibility of divine wisdom (Isa 40:13; Job 41:3) (vv. 33-36).

Review Questions

1. What is the role of the Spirit in God's plan of salvation?
2. Do Israelites remain God's chosen people?
3. How does Paul show that God's rejection of Israel is not a final rejection?