

Romans 9:1-13: God's Salvation and the Jews

Are Individuals Eternally Predestined to Unconditional Salvation?

Romans 9:1-5

Israel is Lost in their Rejection of Jesus

Paul's Heartbreak over Israel – 9:1-5

- Paul mourned for his countrymen—Israelites in the flesh—for their rejection of Jesus as the Christ – 9:1-3; Mt. 23:37; Rom. 10:1-4
 - Paul would have given up his salvation if Israel (nation) would be saved.
 - Paul mourned their lost condition in rejecting the Christ – 10:1-4
- The tragedy of their lost condition is heightened by the fact of their once having a covenant relationship with Christ – 9:4-5
 - The Israelites had been adopted and blessed as God's children.
 - This being so, why were so many Jews lost??

Romans 9:6-9

God's Word Hadn't Failed

Not All Israel is True Israel

- God's word to the Jews hasn't failed because not all *Israel* (of the flesh) is the *true Israel* (of God) – 9:6; 2:28-29; 3:3-4
- Proof of the above assertion is presented in God's choice of the children of Abraham – 9:7-9
 - Being the physical lineage of Abraham doesn't make Israel the **children of promise**—Isaac was chosen over Ishmael – 9:7; Lk. 3:8-9
 - God can choose that being children *of the flesh* does not make them **children of God** – 9:8-9; Gen. 21:14-21

Romans 9:10-13

God's choice of Jacob over Esau had
nothing to do with their works!

God's Choice of Israel: "Not of Works"

- Calvinists depart from the context by applying these analogies to individuals being foreordained to unconditional salvation – 9:1-9, 30-32
- God's choice of Jacob over Esau shows Israel had no gripe that God chose to save apart from *works of the law* – 9:10-13
 - God chose Jacob over Esau with no consideration of their deeds – 9:10-11
 - God's choice overrode what man's might see as fair – 9:12-13
 - Why God did this is because Israel did not keep the Law and was condemned as sinners – Rom. 3:23

Calvinists' Objections

- Did not God arbitrarily determine *before they were born* that the elder would serve the younger, showing unconditional election? – 9:10-12
 - This quote is taken from Gen. 25:23 and concerns how God chose that the *nation* of Esau would serve the *nation* of Israel.
 - The choice had nothing to do with unconditional salvation or condemnation, but *national* power.
 - This example was used to show that God has the right to determine to save *spiritual Israel of faith in Christ* over *unbelieving Israel of the works of the law!*

Calvinists' Objections

- Did not God arbitrarily determine to love Jacob and hate Esau *before they did any good or bad*, proving salvation is determined unconditionally? – 9:13
 - This quote is taken from Malachi 1:1-5 and also concerned the fate of the **nation** of Esau (Edom) and the **nation** of Jacob (Israel).
 - That God **loved** Jacob and **hated** Esau should not be assumed to be by eternal decree and before they showed their character – Heb. 12:15; Joel 3:19; Amos 1:11; Lk. 14:26