



## What About the Jews!

By Ken Terry on June 14, 2021

**TODAY'S READING:** Romans 9

The apostle Paul does an excellent job in Romans Chapter 8 helping the Gentiles understand these eternal facts: In Christ, there is (1) no condemnation (2) no obligations (3) no frustrations and (4) no separation. God has a purpose for all believers. Nothing can prevent that purpose from being fulfilled, and no one can separate God's people from His love. But what about the Jews! They are not believers in the risen Christ. Are they to receive the same rewards as Christ followers? Great question! This is precisely why Paul was in such anguish over his countrymen. Paul was at the point of willingness to give up his relationship with Jesus for the sake of his kinsmen, *"I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish I myself, were accursed and cut off from Christ, for the sake of my brothers, my kinsman according to the flesh"* (vv. 2-3).

Paul then addresses Israel's history, God's elect and chosen people. Israel was a blessed nation, adopted sons and daughters of God. They personally received covenants, giving of the law and the promises of God handed from the patriarchs down the line of their race. This is the line of David by which the Messiah was to be born. His name is Jesus. This is the name that was rejected, and this is the sorrow and burden of Chapter 9. So, what about the Jews? Did God fail them? Certainly not! Paul explains the line of Abraham and the faithfulness of God's promises to His people. However, His promises were not to be fulfilled according to works. Paul gave the example of Jacob being chosen in the womb over Esau. Paul's point helps us better understand God's sovereignty; it is about Him who calls. The basis of God's sovereign choice is not a person's conduct, but God's compassion. God stated this eloquently to Moses, *"I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion"* (vs. 15).

This chapter focuses the reader's attention on the sovereignty of God. Everyone that sins and fails to repent and follow Jesus will be destroyed. The Jews rejected their Messiah. Therefore, they rejected the Son of God. They demonstrated no level of belief or faith. Paul summarized the condition of Israel this way: They pursued the law of righteousness that resulted in their own self-righteousness. They failed to believe and follow the Stone, the Messiah. This Stone which became a stumbling stone for them. So, are we to determine that the Jews are lost forever? More to come.

Question: Where are you in your walk with Christ? Is He a stumbling stone for you? Or are you actively pursuing Him daily and living out your faith?

**PRAYER:** Father in the Heavens, please generate in me a renewed heart and spirit for Jesus. Please allow me the privilege to seek the things of Your Kingdom daily. Please help me start by following the Cornerstone of your Church, Jesus Christ. Father, please empower me supernaturally to fulfill my calling in Him.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Romans 10

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