

Romans 9 – God’s Sovereignty, Grace and Choice

A Simple Definition of Sovereignty

God does what He wants, when He wants,
the way He wants and doesn’t ask our permission.

Reorientation of View- Copernicus – Sun was the center of universe, not the earth

- Humanism – man at center - Heraclitus – “man is the measure of all things”
- Christianity – God at center – God is Sovereign and the measure of all things.

Chapter 9: 1-13

Chapter 8 ends with “nothing can separate us from the love of God”. Chapter 9 begins with those who are separated from God – strong contrast.

VS 3 – I wish that I could be separated, and they be saved –

- Paul and Moses both expressed the same desire – Exodus 32:31
- Only Jesus could do for us what Paul and Moses wished they could do

Note: in the Greek it is clear that what Paul is asking is impossible to be granted

VS 4-5 The Eight Distinctive Privileges of Israel

1. Adaption as sons
2. Manifest Glory of God – pillar of fire, cloud, shekinah glory, etc
3. Covenants – Noah, Abraham, Moses, David
4. Giving of the Law – the Torah
5. Temple and all the festivals and worship
6. Promises of God
7. Patriarchs
8. Messiah – in the flesh

Vs 6-13 – God’s Choice Determines Who Are His People

Abraham – Ishmael and Isaac

- God chose Isaac, younger son over the older
- Only those of the “promise” are chosen
- Not all who are of the flesh are chosen
- Sarah was given the promise regarding Isaac

Rebekah – Esau and Jacob

- God chose Jacob, younger rule over the older
- God chose Jacob in the womb
- Esau had done nothing wrong at that point

Has the Church Replaced Israel?

Replacement Theology – taken from internet articles

(1) the nation Israel has somehow completed or forfeited its status as the people of God and will never again possess a unique role or function apart from the church; and (2) the church is now the true Israel that has permanently replaced or superseded national Israel as the people of God.

https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1105&context=pretrib_arch)

(2) if one reads the Bible without the presuppositions or replacement theology, it will be impossible to find an example anywhere in the Bible where the word *Israel* refers to anything but the Jews.[2] Interpretations of “the Israel of God” as referring to the church turn out under scrutiny to be extremely problematic. Throughout the Bible, *Israel* means Israel, the Jewish people. (<https://jjj.org/news/replacement-theology/>)

What Does the New Testament Call Israel/Israelite?

- 74 references
- 70 are clear the reference can NOT be the church (9 are quotes from OT)
- 4 are used to make the case for Replacement Theology
 - Romans 9:6
 - Galatians 6:16 – the Israel of God – note second quote from above
 - Romans 15:8-9
 - Romans 2:28-29

Three Reasons Why Replacement Theology Does Not Work

1. It's Contrary to Scripture

Isaiah 11:11-12

Jeremiah 30:3

Jeremiah 31:10

Jeremiah 31:35-37

***Jeremiah 32:37-42**

Ezekiel 20:40-44

Ezekiel 36:22ff

Amos 9:14-15

Zechariah 14:2-5

2. **Challenges God's Faithfulness** – God keeps His promises

3. **Undermines the Security of the Church** – can the church be replaced?

Jeremiah 32:37-42

Behold, I will gather them from all the countries to which I drove them in my anger and my wrath and in great indignation. I will bring them back to this place, and I will make them dwell in safety.

*³⁸ And **they shall be my people, and I will be their God.** ³⁹ I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them.*

*⁴⁰ I will make with them an **everlasting covenant**, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. ⁴¹ I will rejoice in doing them good, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, with all my heart and all my soul.*

⁴² “For thus says the LORD: Just as I have brought all this great disaster upon this people, so I will bring upon them all the good that I promise them

God’s Foreknowledge:

I Peter 1:1-2

To those who are elect exiles of the dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, ² according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood:

Romans 8:29-30

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

2 Tim 1:9

who saved us and called us to^[a] a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began

Progression of Gods’ Sovereignty

1. Foreknew – before the foundation of the world – in eternity
2. Predestined – had a purpose for our creation
3. Called – encounters us and enables us to respond – His initiative
4. Justified – with our response of YES – we are acquitted – declared not guilty -grace
5. Righteous – declares us right before God – by grace, not works
6. Sanctified – filled with His Holy Spirit to live new lives
7. Glorifies – enthrones us with Him – at the right hand of God

Romans 9:14-33

Is God unrighteous or unjust (vs 14-18)

Is God Unjust – no. Man has absolutely no claims against God’s divine sovereign decisions. It is always about mercy. Wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) – we all deserve our wages – death.

God is merciful for his sovereign purposes. His purpose for Pharaoh was to demonstrate His power and glory. Exodus chapters 7-14

Note Proverbs 16:4

- Pharaoh hardened his own heart 7 times without God’s help
- God hardened Pharaoh’s heart 1 time after that
- Pharaoh then hardened his heart 2 more times
- Finally, God hardened Pharaoh’s heart 6 times to display his glory

How can God fault someone if he can not resist His will? (vs 19-29)

Isaiah 45:9

“Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots!
Does the clay say to him who forms it, ‘What are you making?’”

Isaiah 29:16

Shall the potter be regarded as the clay, that the thing made should say of its maker, “He did not make me”; or the thing formed say of him who formed it, “He has no understanding”?

Jeremiah 18:1-6

The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: ²“Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear^[a] my words.” ³So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel. ⁴And the vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as it seemed to do with you as this potter has done? declares the LORD. Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

Always a remnant – if not election, no one would ever be saved

What about the gentiles? (vs 30-33)

- Gentiles were welcomed as righteous because they responded in faith
- Israel was pursuing righteousness by works of the law and failed.
- Israel stumbled over the stumbling stone
- God’s purpose in sovereign election makes it possible for both Jews and Gentiles to be saved by grace. Neither group could be saved except by the grace of God.