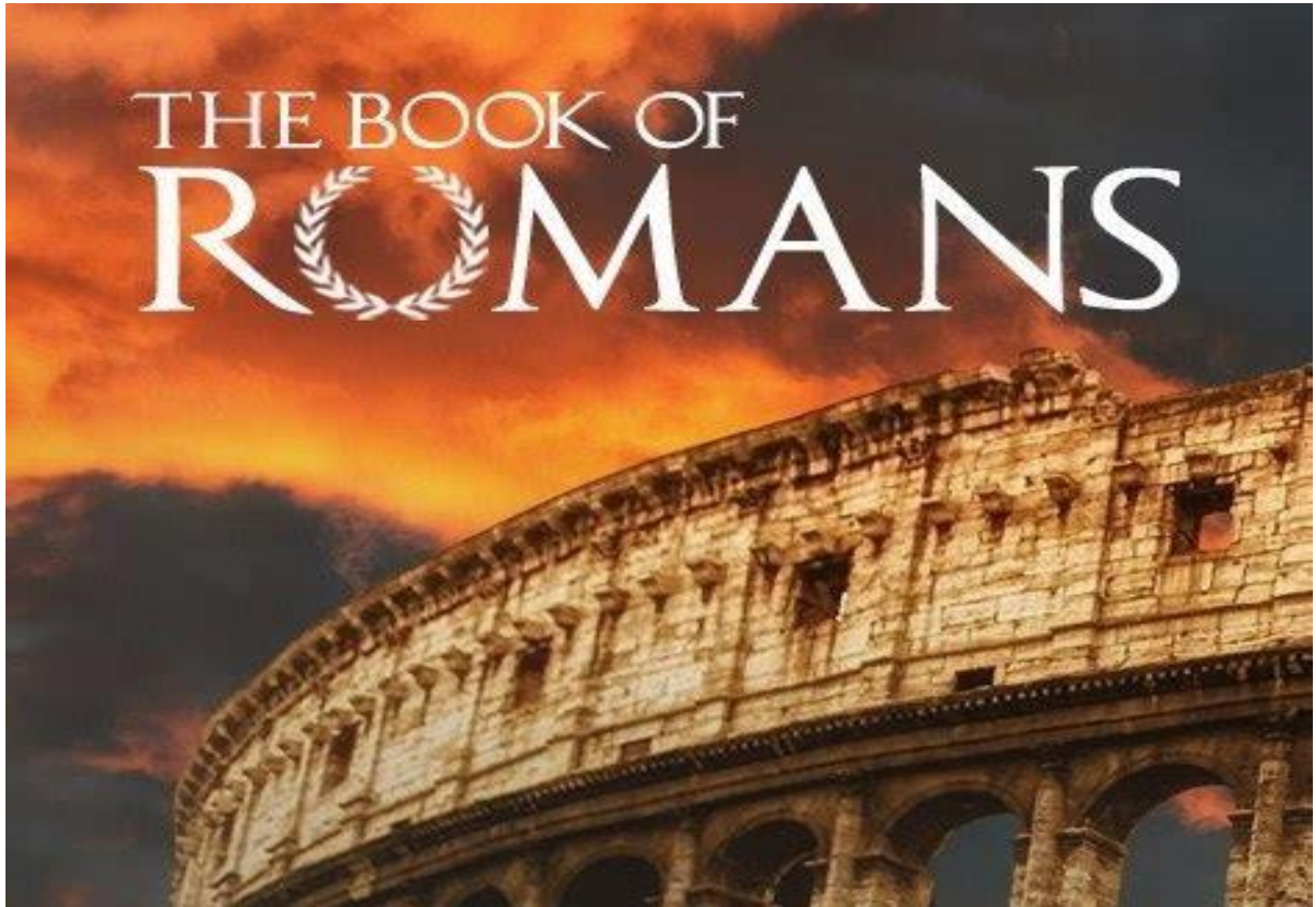


Rom 9:6-9 God's Sovereign Choice of Israel



Outline of Romans Chp. 9*



Paul's Intense Love for Israel	9:1-3
Israel's Grace Privileges from God	9:4-5
God's Sovereign Choice	9:6-13
God's Sovereign Choice Challenged	9:14-24
God's Sovereign Choices Were Predicted	9:25-29
The Amazing Conclusion	9:30-33

* Merryman

Review verses 1 - 3 (Wuest)



Truth I [Paul] speak in Christ

I am not lying

my conscience bearing joint-testimony
with me in the Holy Spirit

that I have a consuming grief, a great one [*mega*]
and intense anguish in my heart without a let-up.

For I could wish For I was continually praying in the past

Interlinear + Imperfect

that I myself were accursed from Christ

Not possible Rom 8:38-39

on behalf of my brethren, my kindred according to the flesh

Review verses 4 - 5 (Wuest)



Privileges in Grace of the Old Testament Israelites

- Who in character are Israelites,
 - God's chosen people
- Who are possessors of the position of a son by having been placed as such,
 - Ex 4:22 "Then you shall say to Pharaoh," Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn."
- And [possessors] of the glory,
 - Ex 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.
- And [possessors] of the covenants,
 - God made covenants uniquely with Israel like no other nation.

Review verses 4 - 5 (Wuest)



Privileges in Grace of Old Testament Israelites (cont.)

- And to whom was given the law,
 - Deut 4:8 Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?
- And who are possessors of the sacred service
 - Ex 20:24 You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, --- I will come to you and bless you.
- And [possessors of] the promises, of whom are the fathers
 - Paul call Israel “the children of the promise.”
- And [Israel] out from whom is the Christ according to the flesh - the One who is above all, God eulogized forever. Amen.

Introduction to Verses 6 - 9*



- As we have seen from verses 4 and 5 God has uniquely blessed the nation Israel
- But because Israel has for the most part rejected God's righteousness and promises, several questions have arisen:
 - Are the promises of God of no effect?
 - Did God fail?
 - Did God lie?
- Paul begins to deal with these questions in verses 6 - 9 (today's lesson)
- And will continue in verses 10 - 13 (next week's lesson)

* adapted from Merryman

Today's Verses



⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;

⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "Through Isaac your descendants will be named."

⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son."

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed.

For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel

But *it is not as though* – lit: [*it is*] not however that

the word of God [to Israel]

has failed - *ekpiptō* - to fall down from, to fall powerless,
to be without effect perfect tense

- The word [of God] with reference to Israel has not failed to work effectively in time past and at present is still potentially effective. Wuest
- Num 23:19 God is not a man, that He should lie, --- has He said, and will He not do it? or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?
- Now some statements about what is a “true” Israelite:



⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed.
For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel



For not all the ones of Israel, are Israel

Interlinear

ones of [ek] Israel – lit: out of Israel as a source

- those who are out of Israel as a source are the physical nation

Wuest

are [true] Israel

- Summarizing: For not all they who are of Israel [born of the patriarch], are Israel [the people of God] Denny
- Physical birth did not determine if you were a true Israelite.

Merryman

more on: for not all the ones of Israel, are Israel



parallel verse:

- Rom 2:28 For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh.
- ²⁹ But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter.
 - Heart circumcision is a spiritual operation that the Holy Spirit performs, not a physical operation that conforms to the letter of the Mosaic Law. Constable

Christ's testimony:

- John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him [Nicodemus], "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God."
- John 3:10b "Are you the teacher of Israel and **do not understand these things?**"

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "Through Isaac your descendants will be named."



Paul will now give a further explanation of 6b

neither because they [Israel] are seed of Abraham, are they all children [of God] Interlinear

- So, Paul will now go a step further and say even if you are Abraham's seed, it does not make you a true Israelite
- **children** is *tekna* i.e., children in the sense which entitles them to the [spiritual] inheritance Denny
- Now Paul will begin to show God's sovereign plan for the nation of Israel:

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "Through Isaac your descendants will be named."



but, in Issac your seed will be called

Interlinear

- Gen 21:12 But God said to Abraham, Do not be distressed because of the lad [Ishmael] and your maid; --- for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.
- A true Israelite must flow from the child of promise*
- Ishmael was not the child of promise*
- Born-again descendants of Abraham; these are the ones that received the promise*
- Those who did not exercise faith did not receive the promise*

* Merryman

7 nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "Through Isaac your descendants will be named."



[more on God's promise:](#)*

- Even though God promised to bless Abraham's descendants
- It was only one branch of his family [Abraham] that He singled out for special blessing
- God's special elective purpose applied only to Isaac and his line of descendants * Constable
- The next verse will explain how "your" [Abraham's] descendants will be called and counted through the line of Isaac

⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.



That is – what follows tell us what “the promise” is like
it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God

Who are the **children of the flesh**?

- the natural children of Abraham [his blood line]
- So “**children of God**” in the Old Testament was more than just by physical birth
- Physical birth never made anyone a child of God*
- The next part of the verse tells us who are the true children of God



⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

but the children of the promise are considered for a seed

Interlinear

but – *alla* – strong contrast

the subject is “the children of the promise”

promise - *epaggelía* – of the promises of God, the thing promised, a gift graciously given

are considered – *logizomai* – are put down a true, are reckon, are consider – present, passive

for a seed – for offspring

- He [Paul] spoke of blessing Abraham's seed uniquely
- It was only the children born supernaturally in fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham about seed - namely, Isaac's descendants

⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.



More on [the children of promise](#):

- So, this promise results in true descendants of Abraham
- This is God's grace in action in Abraham's life
- God's sovereign choice relative to the seed and identity of God's people has always been on the basis of grace-promise-blessing Merryman
- What counts is grace, not race N.T. Wright
- This promise is described in verse 9

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son."



For this is the word of promise

- By the context “**this**” is referring to last part of verse 9 which is a quote from Gen 18:10
- Gen 18:9-10: Then they [the Lord and two men] said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰ He said, "I will surely return to you **at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.**" And Sarah was listening at the tent door, which was behind him.

ROMANS 9:6-13 CLARIFIED (Merryman)
SOVEREIGN ELECTION OF ETHNIC & MESSIANIC LINEAGE

