

Romans

Lesson 10: Romans 9:1–13

R.C. Sproul said, “Most Christians salute the sovereignty of God, but believe in the sovereignty of man.” The sovereignty of God would be a topic of discussion for the readers of Paul’s letter to the Romans especially after Paul has just declared that nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God (8:39). They knew God had established a covenant with Israel, but Israel has rejected their Messiah and salvation has now been preached to the Gentiles. Did God discard the nation He chose? Did God forget about the Jews in His plan of redemption? Although these may seem like minor points to us, this discussion raises crucial questions because it addresses God’s character. How can God be sovereign if He chose a nation that has now rejected Him? Paul will answer by showing that God’s promises have not failed, but this has always been a part of God’s redemptive plan. In 9:1–5, Paul focuses on the tragedy of Israel rejecting the gospel and his desire for their salvation. In verses 6–13, he will show how Israel’s unbelief does not mean that God’s promises have failed, but that this is all a part of God’s sovereign plan. Let’s dive in and see how Israel’s rejection is all a part of God’s sovereign plan of redemption.

➤ **Read Romans 9:1–5**

1. Read Acts 22:3 and Philippians 3:4–6. How does Paul describe himself in these verses?
2. In verse 1, what three truths does Paul lay out for his readers?
3. In verse 2, how does Paul describe himself?
4. In verse 3, what does Paul “wish” for the sake of his Jewish brethren?
5. In verse 3, Paul speaks emotionally because of his love for his fellow Jews. What does Paul know theologically about his salvation? (see 8:35, 38–39)

Application: Paul had a genuine love for the lost Jews. Who are people in your life that you feel this way toward? What are you doing about it?

6. In verses 4–5, list the nine privileges that belong to Paul’s Jewish kinsmen.

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| 1. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 7. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 9. _____ |
| 5. _____ | |

7. In verse 5, how does Paul describe “the Christ”?

Application: Do you know “religious” people who are not born again? What are ways you can try and reach them with the true message of the gospel?

➤ **Read Romans 9:6–13**

8. In verse 6, what is the declaration that Paul makes about God’s promises to Israel?

9. In verses 6–7, what is Paul’s conclusion about the descendants of Israel?

10. Who was Abraham’s first child? (see Gen. 16:15) In Romans 9:7, who did God promise to make His everlasting covenant through? (see Gen. 17:19)

11. In verse 8, who does Paul say are not the children of God?
12. What was the promise given to Sarah in verse 9? What made this promise so special? (see Gen. 17:17)
13. In verses 10–11, what does Paul say about the twins when God made His choice?
14. According to verses 11–12, why is it significant that God chose Jacob before he and Esau had done any good or bad?
15. In verse 13, what did God say about Jacob and Esau?
16. Read Romans 8:28–30 and familiarize yourself with “the golden chain of salvation.” How do the verses in 9:6–13 relate to the golden chain of salvation?

Application: How have you seen God’s sovereignty work in your life? Give specific examples.

Application: What one verse impacted you the most in this study? Explain.