

## Introduction to Romans 9 -11

### Why are these three chapters necessary?

Paul wrote passages defining the Jewish priority in the Gospel Proclamation.

- Ro. 1:16      "...to the Jew first and then to the Greek."
- Ro. 2:9      "...of the Jew first and also of the Gentiles."
- Ro. 9:24      "not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles."

During Paul's three missionary journeys, he usually **started** his evangelistic initiatives in the **synagogues** on the Sabbath, - until he got kicked out. It got to a point that the Jews hated him so much they tried to stone and kill him. They could not tolerate Paul's message. See the various passages in Acts 13ff. As Paul wrote Romans, he further emphasized the fact that Jewish ritualistic religion did not provide the anticipated righteousness for which they were striving.

The following are Paul's "perceived" anti-Jewish passages. The Jews considered him a traitor.

- Ro. 2:17-24    Possession of the Law does not justify
- Ro. 2:25-27    Surgery (circumcision) does not justify
- Ro. 3:9        All Jews and Gentiles are under sin. All are on the same level.
- Ro. 3:27        Righteousness is not achieved through the LAW
- Ro. 4            Abraham was justified by FAITH, not the law.
- Ro. 6:14        We are not under Law
- Ro. 7:4        We are dead to the LAW

These statements rocked the Jews' cornerstone and foundation of their religious (JUDAISTIC) platform.

Paul did not give them any slack. Effort does NOT count. Only Faith counts!

### Therefore, a reader of Romans may ASK:

So, Paul, now you have knocked them off their pedestal. That, coupled with the gospel passages that they have been set aside (Mat 12, 13; 21) raises the question: has God totally rejected His Covenant People (The NATION ISRAEL) and chosen the Gentiles (Church) instead?

What about the Promises of a Kingdom to David, etc..? Is God going to be FAITHFUL to HIS PROMISES to **National Israel**? Will there be a KINGDOM? Now in God's program of salvation in the church, Jewish involvement was decreasing while Gentile participation was becoming dominant. Had God, then, abandoned the Jewish people?

To answer these questions Paul writes these three Chapters under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. This is ultimately explained by **God's sovereign choice**, a principle which has always been in operation even within the Chosen People of Israel and between Israel and other nations. Now this principle (**God's sovereign choice**) operates in God's purposes for **Israel and the church** and in His dealings with **Jews and Gentiles within the church**.

Since God is the self-existent Being who is the Creator of everything that exists outside Himself, He is sovereign and can therefore use and dispose of His Creation as He wishes. This **sovereignty** reveals not only His personal righteousness but also His provided righteousness (Bible Knowledge Commentary). In other words, the very character of God was at stake. If God was not faithful to the Jews, how do we know He will be faithful to the church? The emphasis is as follows:

**Romans 9 is on Israel's past election (Emphasis is on God's absolute SOVEREIGNTY)**

**Romans 10 on Israel's present rejection (Emphasis is on man's moral responsibility)**

**Romans 11 on Israel's future restoration. (Emphasis is on God's future plan)**

The short answer: God has set them aside, but only **PARTIAL and TEMPORARY!**

**PLEASE NOTE:** Difference between **NATIONAL ISRAEL** and a "TRUE JEW."

### **NATIONAL ISRAEL**

God chose Abraham to be the patriarch of a NATION ISRAEL. God established a Covenant with the Nation Israel. He promised a SEED, LAND, BLESSING to Abraham's posterity (Kingdom to David). He did not establish this relationship with any other nation on earth. He told them that He would bless them if they obeyed Him, and He would curse them if they did not obey Him (Deut. 28-29). God wanted Israel to be a light and witness to other nations (i.e. Solomon and Queen Sheba - I Kings 10:1). The nation Israel disobeyed God. They went into captivity and exile numerous times for their rebellion (Assyrians – 722 BC, Babylonians – 605 BC, Roman dispersion in A.D. 70). During Jesus' ministry His KINGDOM offer was rejected by the NATION ISRAEL, and consequently God established a MYSTERY KINGDOM (Soteriological). During this church age both JEWS and GENTILES are saved and brought into the "Kingdom of His dear Son" (Col 1:13). But, Israel as a NATION has been set aside until the times of the Gentiles has been fulfilled (Ro. 11:25).

**TRUE JEW** – An **individual JEW**, who believed GOD (Ge. 15:6), faith in God O.T. times, Faith in Christ N.T.times (Apostle Paul). TRUE JEWS are known as the REMNANT. During Elijah's time God had kept himself a remnant of 7000 (I King 19:18). There has always been a true remnant! Anna, Simeon, "John The Baptist" are examples of the remnant.

Ro. 2:28-29    Definition of a TRUE JEW  
 Ro. 9:6        Not all are "Israel" who are of Israel