

# Romans – An In-Depth Study

## [Chapters 9-16]

### [Part 1]

This study should only be embarked on after the study of Romans chapters 1-8 also available on this website [listed under 'Romans']

What is being addressed by Paul in chapters 9-11 is one of the most bewildering problems that the Christian church has to solve.

The position that the Jews have in God's Plan for all humanity.

**Romans 9:4-5** [NIV] *“the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, for ever praised! Amen.”*

According to inspired scripture in God's Word, the Christian Bible:-

**The Jews [as part of all Israel] were God's chosen people.**

**Deuteronomy 3:18** [NIV] *“I commanded you at that time: “The LORD your God has given you this land to take possession of it. But all your able-bodied men, armed for battle, must cross over ahead of your brother Israelites.”*

All the tribes of Israel were the people God adopted and brought out of Egypt.

Why?

**1 Corinthians 10:1-11** [NIV] *“For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered over the desert. Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in pagan revelry.” We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did, and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. We should not test the Lord, as some of them did, and were killed by snakes. And do not grumble, as some of them did, and were killed by the destroying angel. These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfilment of the ages has come.”*

The history of Ancient Israel was to be an example of how the rejection of God's Laws of love and way of life can only lead to pain, suffering, and in the end rejection by the Creator God.

The whole of the Christian Bible centres on the history of this chosen nation, and **only** refers to other nations as they come into contact with Israel.

**God illustrated His glory, purity and total power to Israel.**

**Exodus 16:4-16** [NIV] *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in,*

*and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?” Moses also said, “**You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD.**” Then Moses told Aaron, “Say to the entire Israelite community, ‘Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.’” While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked towards the desert, and there was **the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.** The LORD said to Moses, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. **Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.**” That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. When the dew was gone, thin flakes like frost on the ground appeared on the desert floor. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread the LORD has given you to eat. This is what the LORD has commanded: ‘Each one is to gather as much as he needs. Take an omer for each person you have in your tent.’”*

God showed His glory and provided for their physical needs.

**Exodus 17:1-6** [NIV] *“The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, travelling from place to place as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarrelled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses replied, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the LORD to the test?” But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?” Then Moses cried out to the LORD, “What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD answered Moses, “Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. **Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.**” So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.”*

Provided water from a rock to satisfy their thirst.

**The Law and Covenants of God were given to Israel.**

**Exodus 19:3-6** [NIV] *“Then Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain and said, “This is what you are to say to the house of Jacob and what you are to tell the people of Israel: ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. **Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites.**”*

The covenants given to Abraham by God would be fulfilled through Israel and the law was given to them by the giving of the Ten Commandments [**Exodus 20:1-22**].

**It is through the Old Testament patriarchs and prophets that the Creator God guides His chosen people.**

**Hebrews 1:1** [NIV] *“In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways,”*

The whole history of Israel is one of blessings given by God, then taken away in times of their rebellion or neglect and following the God’s of the pagan nations around them.

**The human ancestry of Jesus Christ is found in Israel.**

**Matthew 1:1** [NIV] *“A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:”*

Jesus Christ was presented to the Jews as a son of David and Abraham, fulfilling all the promises and prophecies of the looked-for Messiah [anointed one of God].

Jesus Christ then fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies on His birth, life, death and resurrection.

[This is covered in depth on this website and yours for free downloading, listed under the heading ‘Jesus Christ’.]

The Jews, and Israel as a whole, were God’s chosen people.

They had, and still do have, a unique and special place in God’s purposes, and yet when God did send His Son into the world, they rejected Him and crucified Him.

**How is this tragic paradox to be explained?**

**Romans 9:2** [NIV] *“I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.”*

We must always remember that Paul did **not** write these scriptures to the Roman Gentile church in anger but in sorrow and heartbreak.

Paul could never forget that he was a Jew.

But remember that **not all** the Jews rejected Jesus Christ.

**Romans 9:3** [NIV] *“For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race,”*

Why did Paul pray to God in this way?

**Exodus 32:32** [NIV] *“But now, please forgive their sin, but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”*

Paul was following the example of Moses when a similar appeal to God worked, being an example of the sacrificial love that Jesus Christ made for all humanity.

Such a sacrificial love for others must **not** be limited to leaders and those of great intellect.

**Romans 12:1** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.”*

Every true Christian should follow the same example out of gratitude for what God has done for us through Jesus Christ.

**Romans 9:6** [NIV] *“It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.”*

Paul is reminding us that over and over again in Israel’s history, there was in the way God dealt with Israel a process of selection.

Paul in other places in his writing calls those selected “*the elect*.”

**Romans 9:7-9** [NIV] *“Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” In other words, it is not the natural children who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as*

**Abraham's offspring.** For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

The key to understanding this passage of scripture is "children of the promise," given to Abraham.

Who then are these children who are chosen?

**Romans 2:28-29** [NIV] "**A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.**"

It is only those who are "circumcised in the heart" by the Holy Spirit.

What is this internal circumcision?

**Romans 6:1-4** [NIV] "**What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don't you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.**"

This is referring to a totally new direction in our lives.

The physical heart is the driving force of our physical life.

The driving force of our character and spiritual life is our mind and human spirit, [**Job 32:8; 1 Corinthians 2:11**].

**Romans 12:2** [NIV] "**Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.**"

This change from a non-circumcised heart to a circumcised heart is a renewing of our mind and human spirit by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [**Proverbs 20:27**].

**Romans 8:14** [NIV] "**because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.**"

Our new Christian life must be led by the indwelling Holy Spirit, for **only then** will we be a child of God being educated by our Heavenly Father.

**Galatians 3:6-7** [NIV] "**Consider Abraham: "He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham.**"

All who have belief in what God can do for human beings are "children of the promise."

When we believe what God has done for us through Jesus Christ we join all whom God counts as His children.

**Galatians 3:8-9** [NIV] "**The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: "All nations will be blessed through you." So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.**"

**Romans 9:7** [NIV] "**Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned."**

Again we see this divine selection.

**Genesis 21:12** [NIV] *“But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your maidservant. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, **because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.**”*

Only the offspring of Israel were selected by God.

**Hebrews 11:17-19** [NIV] *“By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.” **Abraham reasoned that God could raise the dead,** and figuratively speaking, he did receive Isaac back from death.”*

Notice that faith in God’s wisdom and power were tested by God.

Very often when we look at a problem through physical eyes and logic, we are setting aside the faith we should have in God’s wisdom and power.

**Romans 8:28** [NIV] *“And we know that **in all things God works for the good of those who love him,** who have been called according to his purpose.”*

Our part is to love God through loving our neighbour.

**Galatians 3:29** [NIV] *“If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and **heirs according to the promise.**”*

**Romans 9:8** [NIV] *“In other words, it is **not the natural children who are God’s children,** but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring.”*

We are “children of the promise” if we are bond slaves of Jesus Christ, totally submissive to His Will.

**Galatians 4:28-31** [NIV] *“Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are **children of promise.** At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the **son born by the power of the Spirit.** It is the same now. But what does the Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” **Therefore, brothers, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.**”*

Born again, freed from the enslavement of sin by the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**Romans 9:9** [NIV] *“For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and **Sarah will have a son.**”*

This child born to Sarah was a miracle by God because of her and Abraham both being past the age of producing a family physically.

Likewise is our being “born again” as a child of God, supernaturally by the Holy Spirit.

**Genesis 18:9-14** [NIV] *“Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he said. Then the LORD said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. **Abraham and Sarah were already old and well advanced in years, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.** So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my master is old, will I now have this pleasure?” Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’ **Is anything too hard for the LORD?** I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”*

**Romans 9:10-13** [NIV] *“Not only that, but Rebekah’s children had one and the same father, our father Isaac. Yet, **before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad,** in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: not by works but by him who calls, she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” Just as it is written: “**Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.**”*

This selection has nothing to do with merit, it is **not** something that we can earn.

**Romans 9:14-16** [NIV] *“What then shall we say? **Is God unjust? Not at all!** For he says to Moses, **“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”** It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.”*

This selection is the work of God who selects in His wisdom and power.

**Romans 9:17-18** [NIV] *“**For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”** Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.”*

Paul then gives a very vivid example of this selection, the way He actually hardened the heart of Pharaoh to display His unlimited power over all His creation.

**Romans 9:19-21** [NIV] *“One of you will say to me: **“Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?”** But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? **“Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’”** Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?”*

Paul is **not** saying that some human beings are more worthy than others but simply that the Creator has total control over all His creation.

We as human beings, created by God, have **no** right to demand anything of our Creator.

Our very existence depends on our Creator God, accepting this removes any temptation to have pride in our personal achievement.

**1 Peter 5:5-7** [NIV] *“Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. **All of you, clothe yourselves with humility** towards one another, because, **“God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”** **Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.** Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.”*

Only when we humble ourselves before God will He choose us, use us, and reward us.

**Isaiah 10:20-23** [NIV] *“In that day the remnant of Israel, the survivors of the house of Jacob, will no longer rely on him who struck them down but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel. **A remnant will return, a remnant of Jacob will return to the Mighty God.** Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a remnant will return. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous. The Lord, the LORD Almighty, will carry out the destruction decreed upon the whole land.”*

The vast majority of Israel were unfaithful to God, only a remnant, who were faithful were chosen by God.

**1 Kings 19:14, 18** [NIV] *“He replied, **“I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, broken down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”** ... **“Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel, all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him.”**”*

Those whom God had chosen were very few compared to the whole nation of Israel.

**Luke 12:32** [NIV] *“Do not be afraid, **little flock,** for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.”*

Very few were dedicated to Jesus Christ and His ministry on earth, on His first coming as our Saviour.

## What about all those who have not been chosen by God?

**2 Peter 3:9** [NIV] *“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, **not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.**”*

God’s plan and desire is that eventually all humans will accept Him and be saved through Jesus Christ.

**Revelation 20:11-15** [NIV] *“Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what he had done. Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**”*

Eventually all human beings who have ever existed will have a chance to become part of the Kingdom of God and enter into eternal life.

**1 Corinthians 15:22-23** [NIV] *“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. **But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.**”*

I refer to this as “*family planning of God,*” where those firstborn children will be used by Jesus Christ to teach those who are chosen through a resurrection back to physical life.

**Romans 9:22-24** [NIV] *“What if God, **choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath, prepared for destruction? What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory, even us, whom he also called, not only from the Jews but also from the Gentiles?**”*

The Greek word translated “*destruction*” is “*apōlēia*” meaning to die, physically, or to suffer ruin or loss.

This is **not** eternal oblivion that is being referred to.

This rejection of Israel is **not** callous and pointless and haphazard.

God is using this to open the door to the Gentiles [non-Israelites] that Israel had shut.

The Jews as a major part of Israel, were rejected so that the Gentiles might be received.

## What then is the fundamental mistake that Israel made and still makes?

Israel, as many “*Christians*” still do today and throughout the history of the church, as well as the vast majority of other non-Christian religions, try to tie their relationship with God through their own human efforts.

## People try to independently earn salvation.

In contrast, Gentiles [non-religious people] when called and chosen by God, simply and gladly accept what God has offered through Jesus Christ in perfect and total trust.

Israel should have known that the only way to God is through trust or faith and that human achievement leads nowhere.

**Isaiah 28:16** [NIV] *“So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: **“See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.”**”*

**Only** trust in Jesus Christ who is this foundation stone.

**Habakkuk 2:4** [NIV] *“See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright, but **the righteous will live by his faith,**”*

The righteous live by faith in the Creator God.

**How can the law given to Israel bring salvation?**

**Not** by the strict keeping of the law and all the rituals that were part of law keeping.

**Romans 3:20** [NIV] *“Therefore no-one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, **through the law we become conscious of sin.**”*

This is the main purpose of the law given through Moses.

**1 Timothy 1:8-11** [NIV] *“We know that **the law is good if one uses it properly.** We also know that law is made not for the righteous but for lawbreakers and rebels, the ungodly and sinful, the unholy and irreligious; for those who kill their fathers or mothers, for murderers, for adulterers and perverts, for slave traders and liars and perjurers, and for whatever else is contrary to the sound doctrine that conforms to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which he entrusted to me.”*

The law given by God through Moses allows the Holy Spirit to convict, such people as listed in these verses, to come to a state of repentance.

**John 16:7-11** [NIV] *“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, **the Counsellor** will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. **When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:** in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.”*

Jesus reveals that this conviction of sin in our heart, mind and spirit is part of the work of the Holy Spirit [“*counsellor*” – Greek means one who walks beside us.]