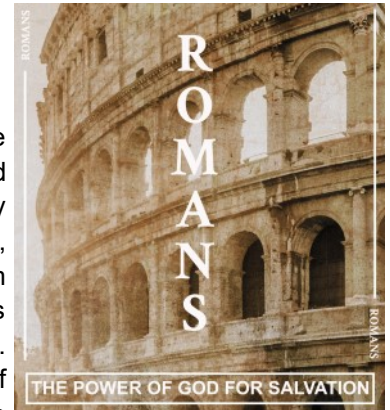


Jake Magee

Message Notes | 03/30/2025

What about Israel

Romans 9:1-13



I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience bears me witness in the Holy Spirit—² that I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my kinsmen according to the flesh. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises. ⁵ To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever. Amen. ⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷ and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.” ⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹ For this is what the promise said: “About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁰ And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹ though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad—in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls— ¹² she was told, “The older will serve the younger.” ¹³ As it is written, “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”

1) The Massive Question _____

2) The Shocking Answer _____

3) The Gospel Truth _____

Small Group Discussion Guide

Romans 9:1-13

Title: *What about Israel*

Getting Started: Heritage and Access

- Share something unique or meaningful about your family heritage or background.
- Have you ever felt like being part of a group, family, or background automatically gave you special status or access to something?

Digging Deeper: *Read Romans 9:1-13*

1. The Weight of the Question

- What key question is Paul addressing in this passage?
- Why is the question “What about Israel?” such a big deal—especially following the promises in Romans 8?

2. Israel’s Privileges and the Problem

- In verses 4–5, Paul lists Israel’s spiritual privileges. Which ones stand out to you, and why?
- Given all these blessings, why is it so startling that many Israelites were not saved?
- How does this create a tension when compared with the promises at the end of Romans 8?

3. Redefining True Israel

- In verses 6–7, Paul says, “Not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel...” How does this help answer the question of why so many of Paul’s fellow Jews were lost—and why it’s *not* evidence that someone can lose their salvation?

3 Continued)

- Paul gives two examples from Israel’s founding families to make his case. Walk through these two stories (Isaac/Ishmael and Jacob/Esau). How do they show that God’s promises were never based on ethnicity or effort?
- Galatians 4:21–31 compares unbelieving Jews to Ishmael and believing Gentiles to Isaac. Read and discuss that passage. How does it align with Paul’s argument in Romans 9?
- The Bible teaches that *anyone* who believes in the Messiah—Jew or Gentile—is considered a child of Abraham (true Israel). Where do you see that theme in the rest of Romans 9? Compare that with Galatians 3:6–9, 13–14, 16, 19, and 26–29. Based on both texts, what makes someone “Israel” in God’s eyes—and what doesn’t?

4. Reflection: Gospel Assurance

- How does this passage offer deep assurance of salvation to believers in Jesus—regardless of background?
- Why is your union with Christ (rather than performance, race, or religious heritage) the foundation of your security with God?

Making It Real: Walking in Assurance

Where do you naturally tend to place your confidence when it comes to your relationship with God? How does this teaching help you think differently about those doubts?

Closing Encouragement

“Your salvation is as secure as Christ is unshakable. You can only be lost if Jesus can be lost – and He never will be.”

Resources:

Romans: Righteousness from Heaven | R. Kent Hughes

www.blueletterbible.org

www.biblehub.com

www.preceptaustin.org