

## [Romans 9:4 – 24]

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~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God examines a message from Paul the apostle in this report that will constitute the strongest message that can be presented. This may be the most radical teaching you have ever read — so be warned. I won't be making any apologies. You'll definitely want spiritual discernment for this one, friends; so, let us look to God in prayer ~

*~ Heavenly Father, as we come now to Your Word we pray that the Real Teacher, Your Holy Spirit – will take over our minds and make the things of Christ real and interesting to our hearts through proper, wisdom, judgment and discernment; we pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ ~*

We are in a dispensational section of Scripture in Romans from chapter nine through eleven. This passage deals with God's plan and purposes for the nation Israel. Chapter nine regards God's *PAST* dealings with Israel. Chapter ten will concern God's *PRESENT* dealings with Israel, and chapter eleven will outline God's *FUTURE* dealings with the nation Israel. If we will keep those doctrinal premises in mind as we read and study, this will make perfect sense. Without that understanding and application, the theologian must remove these three chapters, because eschatology blatantly contradicts them. As we established in our previous report, God isn't finished with the nation Israel as His witness to the world....

***4 Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;***

***5 Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.***

~ The Old Testament saint had the adoption available to them. Israel is the *ONLY* nation that God has ever called "My son!" They are the *ONLY* nation that has ever had the physical, visible presence and direct leading by the

True and Living God! The church has never had that; and does not have it. It is not a promise to the church. It is a promise to Israel. The Spirit of God indwells individual believers in the church, making real the living body of Christ seated at God's right hand. That was never a promise to Israel.

We concluded our previous report regarding the covenants from verse four. These are promises God intends to carry out. Many of them have already been carried out. God said He would make Israel a blessing to all people, for example. God told David He would bring One in his line to sit upon the throne. That has been done. Next, Christ will sit upon the throne over this earth. The Lord Jesus is at God's right hand as I type this report and you read it, my beloved!

**Exodus 19:5** *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine ~*

**Exodus 31:13** *Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, Verily my Sabbaths ye shall keep: for it is a sign between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the LORD that doth sanctify you ~*

These are covenants made by God *with the nation Israel*; not the church. The law regarding the Sabbath never changed; but God sure changed us! We are now in Christ; and that is a *new* relationship for man with God. The Sabbath belonged to a nation, and He gave a law to them regarding it. That is very important to see.

In regard to service of God: Israel had *worldwide* charge of the worship at the tabernacle, and later in the temple. They were to be a kingdom of priests. God told Moses to tell Israel, "... and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel...." That's Exodus chapter nineteen verse six. Well, Israel failed God completely, as we know; but that didn't prompt God to abandon His Holy purpose. It didn't change anything from God's perspective. In the millennial temple, I believe Israel will be God's physical and literal priests. We'll see.

The promises spoken of in verse four refer to the abounding promises God made specifically to His chosen people Israel in the Old Testament. God told Joshua to arise and go over Jordan and possess the land. Well, those promises were not directed at you and me. I don't really want any land over there, honestly. Anyone telling you that land is blossoming like a rose is out of touch with reality. That will not happen until the Lord Jesus Christ returns to rule.

Verse five speaks of the fathers; and that lineage belongs to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. It also contains Christ as the Messiah who came according to the flesh. Of course, we know Jesus came to this earth and He was a Jew. The Samaritan woman at the well sure knew He was a Jew. Paul says, "*.... Christ is over all....we know Him no longer after the flesh.*" God bless us forevermore, friends! Paul identifies Jesus as God! To Paul, Jesus is the God-Man; the Word was made flesh. According to the flesh Christ came of the nation Israel....

***6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:***

~ So, not all of the natural offspring of Abraham constitute the real Israel. The question was raised in Paul's day by the Jew: why hadn't the Jews wholeheartedly accepted Christ since they were an elect nation? That would appear to be a failure on God's part. We dealt with this in chapter three. Paul makes a proper distinction between the natural offspring of Jacob and spiritual offspring of Abraham. There was only ever a remnant; and, whether natural or not – they have been a spiritual offspring. The distinction made here doesn't include Gentiles — at all. God didn't fail, the people failed. Even so, God's promises were unconditional....

***7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.***

~ The Arab today claims the right as sons of Abraham based on a natural birth right. That's true, but in the natural sense only. If this were the spiritual case, then the Ishmaelites, Edomites, Ammonites, Jebusites and all the other "ites" would be included here, too; but they're not. To be a

natural and physical offspring of Abraham is no assurance you are a child of promise. Remember, the Pharisees said they were born of Abraham; but Jesus said they were of their father the devil....

***8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.***

~ This is a clear distinction made by Paul between the elect and the non-elect of Israel. There were thousands who turned to Christ in Israel after His death and resurrection. Many were priests of the tribe of Levi. They chose to believe, so, they were the elect; and Paul always called them *Israe!* Flip over to Revelation where the Lord is speaking to the churches, and He says they don't belong to a synagogue that worships Him any longer – it had become a synagogue of Satan. That's frightful....

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

***10 And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;***

***11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of God that calleth)***

~ The children of the promise aren't those who believed something! Isaac didn't believe before he was born. Isaac was the promised seed by God and God made good on said promise. Isaac and Rebecca are given as an illustrative example of the principle of divine election – *NOT* Abraham and Sarah! I realize verse eleven is a parenthesis, but the truth contained therein is of supreme importance. Some attempt might be made to explain God's rejection because of Ishmael; well, that's simply not possible in this illustration, because those sons were twins, my beloved.

God rejected the line of primogeniture, and He chose the younger. Verse eleven refers to a time when Jacob had done no good and Esau had done no evil. It has nothing to do with their birth; because that was identical,

also. Further, it has nothing to do with their character or their works. Paul makes the entire decision to rest upon the plan and purpose of God according to election; not of works, but of God Who called him. This is *NOT* a call to salvation, though; this deals with family portions and inheritance....

***12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.***

~ This is a quotation from Genesis twenty-five verse twenty-three. Again, this is before Jacob and Esau were born. Next, in verse thirteen, we have a quote from the last book of the Old Testament. The statement in verse thirteen was *not* made until both Jacob and Esau had lived their lives fully and completely *and* two nations had fully emerged and developed from each. Verse thirteen comes with almost two thousand years of history for *BOTH* nations!

Now, I can understand why God hates Esau. Esau is the Muslim Arab Islamic descendant of Ishmael. The religion of Islam, which they call the '*religion of peace and love*' is rank and utter hate, confusion and oppression of women — all rolled into one horrible entity. You can argue against that until you turn blue and fall over dead; but that's what Islamism is. So, I can easily understand why God hates Esau.

No friends, my question was — and still is: *why did God love Jacob?* That's a big problem for me. Esau was a godless man, and from him have emerged a godless people. The Arab Muslim Islamic man has turned his back on the True and Living God and wants to exist peaceably without consequence — but let's be real. They know Jesus, they deny His Deity altogether. They'll kill Christians with no compunction whatsoever. Any Muslim who tells you differently has no idea what they believe in the first place. Well, if you try living that way, God rejects you. God chose Jacob by His sovereign will. No other reason....

***13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.***

***14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.***

**15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.**

~ This verse marks another division in Romans; and it is: **“the choice of Israel is in the sovereign purpose of God!”** You’ll need to read the rest of this report *SUPER* carefully! There is no unrighteousness with God. Everything God does is right, and everything that God declares wrong about you, in fact, is wrong with you. That’s right – the natural man rebels against the sovereignty of God — naturally. Whenever the Lord chooses to move in judgment, man immediately jumps to the conclusion an injustice has occurred. You may want to write that down.

Many past presidents have been applauded for exercising horrible judgment. What we currently deem as acceptable is crippling our government. Take a guess at who put those men in office. Okay, so, it looks like there might be some very bad judgment going around. We don’t seem to question the judgment of men while we are actually judging the judgment of God. Turn that over in your minds a few times and see what you come up with.

A conversation concerning election cannot be avoided any longer after this passage Paul wrote. Moreover, we cannot compromise on the doctrine of election just because some people oppose it. We must come to terms with the fact that we *CANNOT* reconcile the paradox of God’s foreknowledge and our free will – it is – simply – impossible – because both are true! It is also not possible for us to intrude into the mysterious dealings of God; but we can trust Him to act in a just way — one that is in our best interest.

We’re going to have to learn to take Scripture at face value and take our position before an infinite God as the little creature we are, friends. Let’s keep this real. God could wipe us into nothing in a moment — and we would be gone — but He would still be just, holy and righteous. That should unnerve you. It does me. It shocks me how man will stand up on two feet of clay and question what God does. That’s rebellion of the worst kind. We need to bow to our Redeemer and Creator knowing whatever choice He has made for us is the best choice for us. Can you do that? There is no unrighteousness with God. Do you believe God when He says that? ~

**16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.**

~ God's mercy is not extended as recognition of an act of our human will. God's mercy is not reward for human work. *Willing* and *working* are not motivational causes for God's action, friends. Most people tend to feel that their actions and deeds have the favor of God looking upon them – and they act as if they will just pick out whatever they want to do in life and the Lord will bless it. They live as they please; and they expect God to clean up their mess. They live in denial of human responsibility. But God doesn't work that way, friends. Stifler stated it succinctly saying, "... *willing and running may indicate the position in Christ, but they are not the originating causes of Him in one's life.*" God extends mercy to whom He wants to — period — and *ONLY* because He is a merciful God! Who are we to question Him? Let's bow before Him today, shall we? ~

**17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.**

~ So, we now know Pharaoh wasn't of the elect! God gave Pharaoh ample opportunity to let the children of Israel go; but it was Pharaoh who hardened *his own* heart and Pharaoh made the decisions that were in his heart. Pharaoh chose to do the things Pharaoh wanted to do. No lost man is ever forced by God to do that which he doesn't want to do. People in hell will have chosen their eternal damnation, my friends. God doesn't make that decision for them. No one is elect to be lost or predestinated to hell. Judas could have returned to Jesus after the betrayal — as Simon Peter did after his betrayal — and Judas would have been accepted back just as Peter was. Peter repented; Judas committed suicide. The end.

When man goes the full length of making unto himself his own god, whom he effects to bonds by his own rites, then the True and Living God displays His omniscient majesty and appears as the True, Living and Free God — before whom man is nothing — no more than clay to the potter. That was

Paul's attitude when acting as God's advocate in this suit with Jewish Pharisees. See, God is Who He says He is; and that's not going to change....

***18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.***

***19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?***

***20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?***

***21 Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?***

***22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:***

***23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,***

***24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?***

~ God is the Potter, and we are the clay; God took dust of the earth and formed us. God didn't make man as a monkey – although man does make a monkey of himself. God made Adam – a man. God is in charge of everything today, my beloved readers. Unbelievers, my parents were human; sorry about yours! God rides triumphantly in His Own chariot for us to follow – or not. He isn't stopping for man's red lights, and He isn't stopping just because man wants to depose Him or has a hard time keeping up. Sometimes the Lord driveth furiously! Man has the choice to go his own way — or go God's way. Slow down; take it easy – chill out. Do whatever you want to, my beloved friends; but I ask - are you following His chariot? ~