

Study in Romans

Doctrine > God's Plan for Israel

Romans 9-11

This final section of the doctrinal half of Romans deals with the mystery of God's plan for the Israelites. It is fitting that Paul should give us this largest treatment in the New Testament of this topic since the focus of Romans is God's temporal wrath for unbelievers and blessing for believers. Because God's promises for the nation of Israel are also temporal in extent, it is easy, with the focus of God on saving the Gentiles (especially through Paul and his calling as the Apostle to the Gentiles), to think that God has somehow forgotten those promises or has decided to break them.

In these three chapters, Paul will revisit and expand upon the point that he brought up in 3:1-8 where he gives a small glimmer of hope for Jews who have just had their trust in their own righteousness completely obliterated in chapter 2. Here we learn that Israel's rejection of their Messiah, Jesus Christ, is part of God's plan and is being used by Him for the salvation of all people, both Jew and Gentile.

One point comes shining through in these chapters: God is sovereign in judgement and in salvation for all people. All descendants of Adam do not have a free will; it is held captive to sin. Only after His work for redemption in those He has sovereignly prepared for mercy do they truly have a free will. This is the heart of offense in the Gospel. The Jews stumbled over it then and so do most people today.

1. God's Sovereignty in Israel's Past
 - a. Paul's heart of deep value of the Israelites (9:1-5)
 - b. Examples in the Jewish Scriptures of God's sovereignty (9:6-18)
 - i. Abraham & Sarah
 - ii. Isaac & Rebecca
 - iii. Jacob & Esau
 - iv. Moses & Pharaoh
 - c. God's justice and mercy for Jews and Gentiles foretold (9:19-29)
2. God's Sovereignty in Israel's Present
 - a. Present state of Israel: Trust in their own righteousness instead of God's (9:30-10:4)
 - b. God's present way of righteousness by faith in Jesus Christ for both Jews and Gentiles (10:5-13)
 - c. Israel's present rejection of Christ foretold (10:14-21)
3. God's Sovereignty in Israel's Future
 - a. God's preservation of a remnant of Jews as a seed for the future (11:1-10)
 - b. Israel's partial hardening until the fullness of the Gentiles is complete (11:11-24)
 - c. Eventually God's mercy will be given to the entire nation (11:25-32)
4. Paul's burst of praise to God for His amazing plan (11:33-36)