

**God's Plan of Salvation, Part 1**  
**Lesson #20**  
**Romans 9**

Romans 9–11 are one unit and it is helpful to read through all three chapters in one sitting. In these chapters, Paul shows God's plan of redemption through human history. Chapter 9 begins with Paul's lamenting over his own people of Israel. As you study these chapters, keep in mind the big picture of God's plan that made salvation available to you and to me.

**Paul's Broken Heart – Romans 9:1-5**

1. Paul began with an oath. Who did he indicate was witness to the truth of his words? (Romans 9:1)
  
2. How did he express his emotional state? (Romans 9:2)
  
3. Paul felt so strongly that what did he say he wished he could do? (Romans 9:3a)
  - For whom was he willing to do this? (Romans 9:3b)
  
4. Reread these three verses then summarize your understanding of Paul.
  
5. What advantages did Paul list which belong to those who are the people of Israel? (Romans 9:4, 5)

**God is Sovereign – Romans 9:6-29**

6. What did Paul say had not failed? (Romans 9:6a)

7. Then Paul wrote, *"For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children."* (Romans 9:6b-7a) What else did Paul say regarding Israel? (Romans 9:7b)
8. What was Paul's explanation? (Romans 9:8)

**Background:**

9. The story of Abraham is one that all believers need to be familiar with to fully understand Scripture. (The story of Abraham is found in Genesis 12–25.) List Abraham's sons

Reference	Mother	Son(s)
Genesis 16:1-4, 15		
Genesis 21: 2, 3		
Genesis 25: 1, 2		

10. Paul referred to the promise God gave to Abraham in Genesis 18:10, *"At the appointed time I will return and Sarah will have a son."* (Romans 9:9) Using your list above, which son was the child of promise?
11. Paul's audience knew the stories of the patriarchs. (The story of Isaac and Rebekah is found in Genesis 24 – 28 and 35.) According to Romans 9:11-12 and Genesis 25:22-23:
- What was unusual about Isaac's & Rebekah's children?
  - Before they were born what did God reveal to Rebekah?
  - Why was that important to know before the birth?
12. What was recorded about the birth of Isaac's & Rebekah's children? (Genesis 25:24-26)

13. Paul then quoted from Malachi, the last prophet in the Old Testament, "*Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.*" (Romans 9:13) What is the logical question to this statement? (Romans 9:14a)
  - What was the answer? (Romans 9:14b)
14. What words of God to Moses, in response to his request to see God's glory, did Paul quote? (Romans 9:15)
15. What was Paul's point in quoting these Old Testament prophets? (Romans 9:16)
16. In the story of the Exodus (Exodus 3-14), what did Scripture record about the ungodly Pharaoh of Egypt? (Romans 9:17)
17. In reference to the Pharaoh, Paul said, "*God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.*" (Romans 9:18) In response to this statement, what two questions did Paul's imaginary opponent ask? (Romans 9:19)
18. What was Paul's answer? (Romans 9:20a)
19. What illustration did he use? (Romans 9:20b, 21)
20. In verses 22 – 24, Paul asked several hypothetical questions. What were his "what ifs?"
  - Romans 9:22a
  - Romans 9:22b
  - Romans 9:23

- Romans 9:24

21. What do you think was the implied answer to Paul's "what if God" questions?
22. Paul, the apostle called by God to go to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15), quoted the prophet Hosea to show God's plan always included Gentiles. *"I will call them 'my people' who are not my people; and I will call her 'my loved one' who is not my loved one."* (Romans 9:25) What did Hosea say God's plan is for the future of Israel? (Romans 9:26)
23. What additional information did Paul add in quoting the prophet Isaiah about the future of Israel? (Romans 9:27)
24. Using Romans 9:28:
- Who makes that judgment?
  - How did Isaiah describe that judgment?
  - How will this judgment come?
25. What point did Paul make about God's mercy and compassion for Israel? (Romans 9:29)

**Israel's Choice – Romans 9:30–33**

26. Paul asked, *"What then shall we say?"* What did he say regarding the pursuit of righteousness among:
- The Gentiles (Romans 9:30)
  - Israel (Romans 9:31)
27. What was the reason for Israel's failure? (Romans 9:32b)

28. In this next quote from Isaiah, Paul referred to the "*stumbling stone*." What does this stone or rock have the ability to do? (Romans 9:33b-c)
29. But, what if some one chooses to put his/her faith and trust "*in him*?" (Romans 9:33d)
30. Who is that "*stone*?" (1 Peter 2:4-6)

**Reflect:**

As you look back over this chapter, especially verses 2, 3 & 31-33, what was the situation that was breaking Paul's heart?

Do you share Paul's heart for those who are stumbling over the stone whether Jew or Gentile?