



Epistle to The Romans



Lesson 12, Romans 9:1-5 - The Covenants

This session begins an important “trilogy” in the Scripture: Romans 9, 10, & 11. Chapter 9 - Israel Past; Chapter 10 - Israel Present; and Chapter 11 - Israel Future.

From Genesis 12 to Acts 2, one of the Bible’s main focuses is on Israel. One of the main themes within that context is that God keeps His promises! We need that view of our God both doctrinally as well as devotionally because we live in a time where all other truth changes on a day to day, hour to hour, basis. Our God delights in making and keeping His promises.

Our last chapter, Romans 8 opened with “no condemnation...” and closed with assurance there is no separation.

? **Thought question:** If God is so faithful to His Word that none He has justified can be condemned, and that none in Him can be separated, then why have the Israelites, who were sovereignly chosen by God and also given unconditional promises, appeared to have failed and faced rejection?

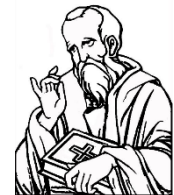
This issue was picked up from Romans 3:1-3:

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

We are going to address this and some other hard questions throughout Chapter 9. This also begs the questions: How are the Gentiles to relate to the Jews? If circumcision is of no value without faith, then what advantage has the Jew? What is the benefit of circumcision? (This was also addressed in Acts 15)

Through this, is a demonstration by God to the world, that he does keep his promises, despite what is going on with Israel today. This helps us understand the news headlines we see today.

In Acts 15, Paul, Peter, and others decide it is time to go to Jerusalem, after having been absent for a couple of decades. There is this great controversy that has arose about whether a person had to become a Jew first to become a Christian. This stood to reason at the time for many, since many early Christians were Jews.



Paul and Peter found out, by being ‘out in the field’ so to speak, that things didn’t necessarily work that way. So, they invoked a council in Jerusalem, where Paul explained how the gentiles were coming to faith in Jesus Christ.

Peter basically scolds the leadership in Jerusalem, asking them why they would put a yoke of bondage (Jewish laws and customs) on the new believers. Laws that the Jews themselves could not keep.

Peter concludes, speaking to the Jewish leaders, that he hopes that they (Jews) will do as well as the gentile Christians.

Read Romans 9 Verses 1 & 2

Paul is pouring his heart out—he is talking passionately instead of his normal logic. This is not an academic or intellectual issue; he is totally emotionally involved with this issue.

Read Romans 9 Verse 3

In verse 3 “I could wish” implies a contrary-to-fact wish or something you wish but know is impossible. The grammar implies it is an absolute impossibility. Thus, another absolute testimony to eternal security! Because, Paul says he cannot be separated from Christ.

Is there anyone you love enough, that you would give up your eternal salvation? That is what Paul is speculating about here, given up his eternal destiny for his fellow brethren.

This occurs only one other time in the Word of God with Moses (Ex 32:30-32). Moses speculates about being ‘blotted out of God’s book’ in response to the spiritual fornication the Israelites had succumb to. God, however, is faithful based His character not ours. In Ezek 36:19-(22!) 25...He is faithful despite Israel’s apostasy...

Read Romans 9 Verses 4 & 5

In verses 4&5 Paul lists ten advantages that the Jew had.

10 Advantages of the Jews

1. They received the **Words of God**: Rom 3:1-2.
2. They were called “**Israelites**.” The word Israelite literally means “Princes of God” (Gen 32:28). They were chosen as a witness of His reality. At the time, all nations on Earth, had excluded all knowledge of God. God calls an idol worshipping Assyrian (Gentile) named Abram to start the Israel nation (Rom 1:18-26).
3. They received the “**Adoption**” as sons (Deut. 7:6-9). It is one of the reasons for the world’s rejection.
4. They have the “**Glory**” or the *Shekinah* (Ex 24:16-17; 29:43; 40:34-38; Num 7:89). It departs from them in Ezek 9:3..10:4..18f. Yet, he sets Temple Covenant to return Hag 2:2-9. Will return through the East Gate: Ezek 44:1ff. Cf. Jh 1:14.
5. They have “**Covenants**” with God. Presented in present tense, continually. This is a critical issue that must be understood to have a complete understanding of scripture. “Amillennialism,” although unscriptural is still the dominant eschatological view in many denominations.

Unconditional Covenants

There are four Unconditional Covenants that are essential to understanding both OT and NT: Abrahamic; Land; Davidic; and, Everlasting.

❶ **The Abrahamic Covenant:** Most important (Gen 12:2,3). In this passage there are seven “I Will” statements—four direct and three understood. From this flows God’s plan for all of mankind! All the other covenants build on this one. It is probably one of the reasons America has been spared it’s overdue judgement.

- 1) And I will make of thee a great nation.
- 2) And I will bless thee
- 3) And make thy name great
- 4) And thou shalt be a blessing
- 5) And I will bless them that bless thee
- 6) And curse him that curseth thee
- 7) And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.



Aspects 5 & 6 are the basis for the first judgement when Christ sets up his earthly kingdom. Commonly called the “Sheep and Goat Judgment” (Matthew 25:31-46). The people that are before His judgement seat are mortal people who have survived the tribulation. These are not resurrected people but mortals. They will be either saved (sheep who helped) or sent to hell (goats) on the basis of their works namely how they treat Israel during the tribulation. God foreknew Satan’s anti-Semitism. History was patterned and destined after this reality (Zech 2:8). This also proves that the Church will not be in the Tribulation, as there would be no distinction between Jew and Gentile (Cf. Rom 9:5). The brethren are the distinctives in this judgment of Mt 25:31-46 also derives from items 5 & 6 of Abrahamic Covenant.

The Covenant was declared eternal, unconditional, immutable (Gen 17:7, 3,13,19; 1Chr 16:17; Ps 105:10).

Aspect 7 is alluded to by Christ in John 4:22, “Salvation is of the Jews.” There is no other such promise to any other people! We rely entirely on our derivative benefit from the Root of David, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.

God’s contract (Abrahamic Covenant) is still intact: Nations to be judged (Mt 25:31-46); foresees the blessing of the family of the entire earth (Gal 3:8); before the Throne of God (Rev 5:9)

The actual covenant was solemnized by a divinely ordered ritual symbolizing the shedding of blood and passing between the parts of the sacrifice (Gen 15:6-21; Jer 34:18).

Unconditional Covenant: Genesis 15

A divinely ordered ritual: barath, “To cut a covenant.” (Participants would divide a sacrifice and together, in a figure “8,” would repeat the terms of the covenant.)

The Terms of the Covenant

- God declared it eternal and unconditional. Re-confirmed by an oath (Gen 22:15-18; 26:2-5. Cf. Heb 6:16-18) and confirmed by the birth of Isaac and Jacob despite their acts of disobedience! The New Testament declares it immutable (Heb 6:13-18). Where was Abram in Gen 15:12-17? Asleep! God passed by Himself between the pieces (Cf. Jer 34:18). It was God's unconditional, unilateral commitment.
- Metal-smith's kiln (1 Pet 1:7). Purification by seeing his reflection in the molten gold. Flaming fire (Deut 4:24; 9:3; Heb 12:29).

② The Land Covenant: Gen 12:7; 13:12-17; 15:9- 21; 35:9-12.

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. Genesis 13:14&15



That ground does not belong to the U.N., to the Palestinians (whoever they are?), it belongs to God.

Due to Israel's failure under the Mosaic Covenant a worldwide dispersion is predicted called the Diaspora. Deut 28:63-68; 30:1-3 talks about this happening and says "When" you disobey not "If" Lev 26:40-45. God foreknew their disobedience and subsequent dispersion (v. 42 contrasts the conditional Mosaic covenant with the unconditional covenants). The Mosaic covenant was conditional, this land covenant is not. Many people miss this point.

Israel will be regathered according to Ezek 36:17-32 (v.25) "then" they will repentant. At this time, they are regathered but no repentant. The Bible says that Israel will be regathered in their unrepentance. How will they know He is the Lord? Because He keeps His promises despite their failures! Declared to be everlasting: Ezek 16:60-63—"His Land"; "His City."

The next covenant is probably the most interesting of the three. As New Testament Christians we tend to ignore the OT at our peril. The next covenant, once understood, helps us to understand things more fully.

③ **The Davidic Covenant: 2 Sam 7:11-16; 1 Chr 17:11-14.** The Davidic Covenant promised the 'right to rule' or 'kingship' to the Tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10). This covenant is hidden in the Torah text of Genesis 38 in the original Hebrew (Genealogy of David). It is also prophesied in Ruth 4.

In A.D. 6-7, the Roman proctor Caponius took away the legal power of the Jewish Sanhedrin by issuing a Roman edict (law). No longer did the Sanhedrin have authority to deliver capital punishment. That is why the Romans had to crucify Christ. This edict caused panic among the members of the Sanhedrin. The high priests put on sackcloth and ashes and marched



around Jerusalem weeping, crying out “The scepter had departed from Judah!” They actually thought the Word of God had failed! They didn’t know that there was the young man growing up in Nazareth.

Read Ezekiel 37:21-28. David was to be their King again as predicted in the Torah. David is promised a political kingdom and David’s House is a dynasty or a royal line (Isaiah 7:13). (David will also rule under Jesus Christ in the Millennium). This was also emphasized to Abraham (Gen 17:2-8). It was also confirmed by oath (Ps 132:11; 89:3, 4, 33, 34).



After David came Solomon’s whose sons fail: Jeconiah was the last of David’s line to sit on the throne. God pronounces a blood curse on Jeconiah’s blood line that no more of his seed shall ever prosper again (Jer 22:30).

The Davidic Covenant

Jesus has legal claim through Joseph. Jesus also had a bloodline claim through Mary, because of the exception granted in the Torah for the daughters of Zelophehad (Num 27; Josh 17:3). Mary was of the line of David, but through Nathan, not Solomon (Lk 3:31; 2 Sam 5:14; 1 Chr 14:4). The blood curse on the royal line was “side-stepped” by the virgin birth.

Yet, David’s throne didn’t exist during Jesus’ time on the earth since the romans were running things.

The Davidic Covenant was declared to be everlasting (2 Sam 7:13, 16, 19; 1 Chr 17:12; 22:10; Isa 55:3; Ezek 37:21-28) and was confirmed to Mary by Gabriel, saying her child would sit on the throne of David (Lk 1:30-33). It was recognized by the First Church Council: Acts 15:16-18, when James was quoting from Amos 9:11-12. Note: In the Lord’s Prayer we pray “Thy Kingdom Come” (Mt 6:10). What are we praying for?

“The Kingdom of Heaven”?

Luke and Mark use “Kingdom of God” in their writings; Matthew only uses “Kingdom of Heaven” (33 times) as well as “Kingdom of God” (5 times) and a few times he uses them together (Mt 19:23,24). There are diverse views on what the Kingdom of Heaven means and requires further study.

The phrase “Keys to the Kingdom” (Mt 16:10; Isa 22:22) may provide a clue... There are various claims to the “Keys to the Kingdom” by different sources, such as the Catholic Church which claims it as their link to apostolic succession. Most are contrived perceptions. The phrase only shows up in the Old Testament in one place. In Isaiah 22 the phrase “Keys to the Kingdom” is identified as the key to the house of David.

To clarify, the phrase “Kingdom of God” is an all-inclusive phrase that means everything under God’s creation, e.g....angels, earth, universe, etc....

The phrase “Kingdom of Heaven” used by Matthew is a more specific reference to something than the broader “Kingdom of God.”

“Kingdom of Heaven” is a physical reference, meaning it has a locality or boundaries. It is for mankind and earthly. It has a capital, which will be Jerusalem. It has a King, who will rule over specific subjects; It covers mankind, is earthly. It is a political institution (Dan 2:44). It was usurped but destined to be regained (Mt 11:12).

The Throne of David will be re-established in Jerusalem, not in heaven. The floorplan of the upcoming temple is listed in Ezekiel 43 & 48. David to rule in the Millennium? (Ezek 34:23,24; 37:24,25; Hos 3:5). This, however, cannot be applied to the Church, for lots of reasons. The Church is associated with the Kingdom of God not the Kingdom of Heaven. (Ezek 37:21-28). It will begin with the relief of nature’s curse (Isa 11:1- 13; 65:17-24; Micah 4:1-5; Zeph 3:14-20; Zech 14:1-21).

④ The Everlasting Covenant (with Israel!)

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more. Jeremiah 31:31-34

When will all this happen?

I will go and return to my place, till they acknowledge their offence, and seek my face: in their affliction they will seek me earnestly. Hosea 5:15

In Zechariah 13 it talks bout the troubles that Israel is going to face, called the ‘Time of Jacob’s trouble.’ Archangel Michael calls it in Daniel 12 the Great Tribulation.

And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God. Zechariah 13:8,9

During the tribulation, two-thirds of the Jews will die and only a third will be left. Tough times indeed. The people who help them will be the ones who are rewarded in the Sheep and Goat judgement we talked about earlier.

Summary: Everlasting Covenant

1. Unconditional, under grace; based on God's "I Will's": Isa 61:2; Jer 31:31-37; Ezek 16:60-62; 37:26.
2. Everlasting covenant: Jer 31:35-37; 32:40; 50:5; Ezek 37:26; Isa 61:2,8; Heb 13:20.
3. Includes a new heart and new mind of all Israelites: Jer 31:35.
4. Restoration of the nation of Israel: Hos 2:19-20; Isa 61:9; applies during the Millennium: Zech 13:8-10.
5. Provides permanent forgiveness: Jer 31:34
6. Permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit: Jer 31:33; Ezek 36:27.
7. Universal teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit: Jer 31:34; Isa 11:9.
8. National Israel must be restored to the land for this to be implemented fully Jer 32:41; Isa 61:8; Ezek 36:25-27; Zech 14:9-11; Amos 9:13-15.
9. God's true Temple established in Jerusalem: Ezek 37:26, 27.
10. Global peace; wars will cease in the Millennium: Hos 2:18; Isa 2:4.

10 Advantages of the Jews, Con't.

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2. ✓ They were called "**Israelites**." The word Israelite literally means "Princes of God" (Gen 32:28). They were chosen as a witness of His reality. At the time, all nations on Earth, had excluded all knowledge of God. God calls an idol worshipping Assyrian (Gentile) named Abram to start the Israel nation (Rom 1:18-26).
3. ✓ They received the "**Adoption**" as sons (Deut. 7:6-9). It is one of the reasons for the world's rejection.
4. ✓ They have the "**Glor**y" or the *Shekinah* (Ex 24:16-17; 29:43; 40:34-38; Num 7:89). It departs from them in Ezek 9:3..10:4..18f. Yet, he sets Temple Covenant to return Hag 2:2-9. Will return through the East Gate: Ezek 44:1ff. Cf. Jh 1:14.
5. ✓ They have "**Covenants**" with God. Presented in present tense, continually. The reason we covered this is because of the critical issue of "Amillennialism." Although unscriptural is still the dominant eschatological view in many denominations. They do not believe the millennium is literal. They believe the millennium is totally allegory. An allegory is a license to invent. Yes, there is some allegory in the bible, but you use literal interpretation to interpret the allegory, not the other way around. That leads to unscriptural error. Why is it critical? Because the many things that mankind is facing requires an eschatological (end-time) view that is valid. This heresy led to the holocaust in Nazi Germany and will also lead to a sleeping church and other problems in the end times.
6. They have the "**Giving the Law**": Rom 7; Gal 3:17-18.
7. They were given the "**Service of God**" or the Temple Services and Priesthood. The Temple Covenant (Missed by many commentators!) Hag 2:2-9. These rituals were for Israel, not the Church. We are warned against them in unmistakable terms (Col 2:16ff).
8. They were given "**Special Promises**" for the Future Kingdom.
9. From them sprung the "**Fathers**" of the Faith, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
10. The Messiah would come from their physical race (Rom 9:5).

Next Session

Study Romans 9:6-39. Questions to ponder, Has the Word of God failed? If Israel was chosen, where are they now? They have gone through some pretty dark times and will still go through some of the worst. In the next lesson, Doctrine of Election: Fate vs. Free Will? If something is prophesied, do we have a choice? And, where does Sovereignty of God vs. Sovereignty of Man fit in? What is the difference between The Body of Christ and the Bride of Christ, are they the same? All of these will be dealt with in the next lesson.



Names in the Bible Word Scramble



udsedath
usjes
isttu
eossm

_____ agrha
_____ lbaoromehwt
_____ jeliah
_____ ikeelze

ROMANS CHAPTER NINE

T L U A F W E O R E D L E P H A	_____ CALLED	ISRAEL
S E D A O M R F A E B B U A T M	_____ CHRIST	JACOB
R M A R M D M F F O T R G W U O	_____ COUNTED	LOVED
N E R I E N O Y C E P S H R R D	_____ EFFECT	MERCY
O O B L M R E A S O C O O N T O	_____ ELDER	MYSELF
S O L E B R J A S E M T E H B S	_____ ESAU	PROMISE
Y A B I C T A E B D L N A D G G	_____ FAULT	PURPOSE
C R D A A C E S C E E F B E I N	_____ FLESH	REBECCA
C A N K A C A A M R S A E V B I	_____ FORBID	SARAH
A H E P I I A U D A P I I O S V	_____ GHOST	SERVICE
T N R V S S S E R Y A N M L E A	_____ GIVING	SODOMA
B H R I I A T R C E G E H O T H	_____ GLORY	SORROW
R E O H S N R R A H T S S R R A	_____ HAVING	TAKEN
S W O U U T E A E E E R A E H P	_____ HEART	THOUGH
T L E O G M M I H L L E T A N O	_____ HOLY	TRUTH
Y P C U E H C N F O H Y R O L G	_____ ISAAC	WHOM

Thaddaus, Jesus, Titus, Moses, Hagar, Bartholomew, Elijah, Ezekiel