

# **“God’s Sovereign Choice Of Israel”**

## **Romans 9:1-9**

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May 17, 2026

**Teaching Aim:** To demonstrate the depth of Paul’s love for His fellow Israelites and to see the special privileges God has given to His chosen nation Israel. To understand not everyone naturally born into an Israelite family is of the seed of Abraham, but only those who believe the God of the Bible. To recognize the church is comprised of both believing Jews and believing Gentiles.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (BIBLE STUDY)**

#### **Part I: The depth of Paul’s love for his fellow Israelites (Rom. 9:1-3)**

1. Why would some people think Paul was lying about his love for the Jews (**vs. 1**)? (See **Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-9,15-16; 2 Cor. 11:22-28**) What is the role of the human conscience? According to **verse 1**, who bears witness to the Christian’s conscience? How does the Holy Spirit direct the Christian conscience today?
  
2. Paul often wrote that as Christians we should be rejoicing. What do we find Paul doing in **verse 2**? Why? Do you have sorrow in your heart when you see unbelieving family members and friends rejecting Christ? How can you better witness to these unbelievers? Should we ever give up on them, or as long as there is breath, is there hope they will come to faith in Christ?
  
3. The Greek word for “*accursed*” is the word “*anathema*” (meaning: to be damned). What did Paul wish upon himself in **verse 3**? Why? Do you have the kind of love for your family and friends that you would be willing to spend eternity in hell to save them? Why or why not? What other biblical giant wished something similar upon himself? (See **Exod. 32:31-35**) What was God’s answer to this spiritual giant?

#### **Part II: The special privileges of God’s chosen nation Israel (Rom. 9:4-5)**

1. According to **verse 4**, who were Paul’s “*countrymen according to the flesh*”? Who was the nation of Israel named after? (See **Gen. 32:27-28**) In what way did God adopt the Israelites as His children? (See **Deut. 7:6-10; Exod. 4:22-23; Jer. 31:9; Hos. 11:1**) What is Paul referring to when he speaks of “*the glory*” in **verse 4**? (See **Exod. 16:10; 24:16-17; Lev. 9:23-24**)

2. What does the word “*covenant*” mean (**vs. 4**)? (See Dictionary) Which covenants is Paul referring to in **verse 4**? (See **Gen. 12:1-3; 15:4, 17-21; Exod. 19-24; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 36:24-28**)
  
3. Which law was Paul referring to in **verse 4** when he said, “*the giving of the law?*” (See **Exod. 20:1-17; Deut. 5:6-21**) In what way is the Mosaic Law foundational to the legal structure of our western civilization today? What unique service did the Israelites (particularly the Levites) perform to the LORD that no other people or nation on earth was allowed to do (**vs. 4**)? (See **Exod. 19:5-6; 38:21; Num. 1:47-54**)
  
4. According to the New Testament, each Christian is called to be a priest of God. (See **1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 1:6**) What kind of sacrifices and services are we to offer today? (See **Rom. 12:1-2; Phil. 4:16-20; Heb. 13:15-16**) What promises do you think are referred to in **verse 4**? Do you believe that God still keeps His promises today? Why or why not?
  
5. Who are “*the fathers*” (or patriarchs) of the Jews (**vs. 5**)? (See **Deut. 9:5-6**) What can we learn about the human nature of Jesus Christ from **verse 5**? What genealogical line did Jesus come through in His humanity? (See **Mic. 5:2; Matt. 1:1-16**) What profound statement is made in **verse 5** regarding the deity of Jesus Christ? What does this statement mean for you personally? The word “*amen*” means “*it is true.*” What does Paul declare to be true in this powerful Scripture?

### **Part III: God is faithful in keeping His promises (Rom. 9:6-9)**

1. When looking at the nation of Israel, why might some people have thought that the Word of God had not taken effect (**vs. 6a**)? Does God ever fail? Why can God never fail? According to **Isa. 55:11**, what will happen as God’s Word is faithfully shared? Has this promise been true in your life? How does the promise in **Isa. 55:1** relate to the Church today?

2. What does Paul mean in **verses 6b and 7** when he says, “*For they are not all Israel who are of Israel, nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham?*” (See **Rom. 2:28-29**) God made a specific promise to Abraham, according to **verse 7**, what was it? (See **Gen. 21:12**) How many years did it take God to fulfill this promise? (See **Gen. 12:4; 17:17**) Do you find yourself struggling as you wait for God to fulfill His promises in your own life? Why or why not? What can we learn from Abraham’s life?
  
3. Name all the biological children of Abraham according to the Bible (**vs. 8**). (See **Gen. 16:1-4, 15; 21:1-3; 25:1,2**) What consequences do we still find Israel paying today because Sarah was determined to help God with Ishmael being the result? What people group came from Ishmael? Out of all of Abraham’s biological children, who was the only child declared to be the chosen child, the child of promise (**vs. 7**)? Is God’s sovereign election of Isaac unfair to Abraham’s other children? Why or why not?
  
4. How did Sarah respond to God’s promise that He would give her a child (**vs. 9**)? (See **Gen. 18:10-12**) How did Abram respond to the same promise? (See **Gen. 17:15-17**) Why does Abraham’s response seem so out of place in light of **Heb. 11:8-10** and “*The Hall of Fame of Faith*” chapter? How about Sarah’s response? (See **Heb. 11:11**) Do you find yourself struggling at times with believing God in your own life? If so, how?
  
5. What are some ways trusting God can positively affect your life? Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If not, why not do so right now in prayer?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- Contrary to what many thought, Paul had a deep affection for his own people the Jews.
- Paul loved his fellow Israelites enough that he was willing to lay down his own life and spend eternity in hell if it would save them. Do you have the same kind of love for your unbelieving family members and friends?
- Out of all the nations in the world God sovereignly chose Israel to be His chosen people and to bring forth the Messiah to the world.
- Salvation is of the Lord, but it comes through the Jews.
- Salvation comes not by physical birth, but from the new birth that comes by grace through faith in Jesus Christ.
- We can trust God to keep His Word; He is always faithful and just!