

## LESSON 19 9:1-26

In chapter 8 Paul established the immense blessing of our eternal security in Christ Jesus our Lord. No matter how bad life may get, or how great the trials, or how awful our circumstances, we are trophies of the grace of God. As Paul said, "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." 8:38-39. We are the blessed ones who are saved.

But what about Israel? Earlier in Romans Paul built a strong case for the blessing that was theirs because they were chosen of God. Now he makes a clear distinction between the race, or family God chose versus the faith God gave her.

### **ISRAEL AS A RACE**

Paul claims to be speaking truth, appealing to both conscience and the H.S. – 1

Paul's truth claim – he is deeply saddened. – 2 But why? Because as blessed as the nation Israel is (see verses 4-5) many of them are cursed, being without Christ. – 3 He even desires to trade places with them so that they could know God's salvation and he could take their cursing.

So then, has the covenant with Israel been just a great big hoax? - 6a No. The word of God has actually touched the hearts of those outside the nation, but not outside Abraham's faith.

### **ISRAEL AS A FAITH**

Not everyone born of Abraham receives the covenantal promises. Was it through Ishmael that all nations are blessed? No, but through Isaac. – 6-7 As a matter of fact, it has nothing to do with physical descendants, but on God's promise. – 8 (See 4:13). This promise of God was **believed** by Abraham and Sarah. – 9 Furthermore, Isaac's own wife conceived twins, and by God's promise and according to His own purpose, he chose to extend the gift of faith to Jacob, the younger, not the elder Esau. – 10-13 (Now one may say, Whoa, whoa, whoa! Wait just a minute. That isn't fair. As if Paul was anticipating such a reaction he writes to clarify.) Certainly God isn't unrighteous. – 14 He even told Moses, "I will have mercy on whoever I want, and I will have compassion on whoever I want." - 15 So we must understand, it isn't a matter of how much you want salvation, or how hard to try to get it, but of God that that shows mercy. That's the key. – 16 Remember Pharaoh? His whole purpose in existence was for God to set him up and then destroy him. – 17 God decides whom will receive mercy and who will receive hardening. – 18 You might ask, "Well if God hardens someone's heart, how can he hold that person responsible for their sin? Nobody is able to overcome God's will. – 19 But think about your place. No one is in a position to question God's work. – 20-21 God created some to destruction, and He has to put up with their rebellion for so long, but will eventually punish them, and He also created some to show his mercy: us, the believers, both Jew and Gentile. – 22-24 Even Isaiah prophesied that God would save Gentiles. – 25-26. We are not Israel by race, but are Israel by faith.