

Welcome To

Malvern Bible Chapel



The Sovereignty of God

Part of the Romans Series (part 3)

Romans 9-11

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The Sovereignty of God

Introduction:

- See outline handout.

Body of the lesson:

- This is a very difficult section of the book of Romans!
- Not just a parenthesis between two practical sections.
- However there is rich teaching here, principles that have led to the salvation of many (including me!), and a concluding doxology that is nearly unparalleled!

Sovereignty—righteousness rejected (Chaps. 9-11)

A. Israel's past election (Chap. 9)

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Keep in mind that Paul has a national perspective in these three chapters, not an individual view. Israel as a nation was tremendously blessed by God above all other nations, to which they were to be a light. Eight blessings are mentioned:

1. **The adoption**—chosen by God because of His love
2. **The glory**—the presence of God in the tabernacle
3. **The covenants**—through Abraham, Moses, David
4. **The giving of the Law**—God never dealt with the gentiles like this
5. **The service of God**—priestly service in the tabernacle was a privilege from God
6. **The promises of God**—many OT promises already fulfilled; others yet to be fulfilled
7. **The fathers**—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), 12 sons of Israel
8. **The Messiah**—Christ was a Jew, of the tribe of Judah

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Also keep in mind that the basis for the national election of Israel is the sovereign will of God that He exercises to accomplish His perfect plan.

Israel was an elect nation among all the nations, given incredible blessings and yet it failed miserably to follow God's program of being a blessing to the world.

Israel as a nation was to be a light (witness) to the world (**Gen. 12:1-3; Isa. 42:6, 49:6**).

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Genesis 12:1-3 New King James Version (NKJV)

12 Now the LORD had said to Abram:

“Get out of your country,
From your family
And from your father’s house,
To a land that I will show you.
² I will make you a great nation;
I will bless you
And make your name great;
And you shall be a blessing.
³ I will bless those who bless you,
And I will curse him who curses you;
And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

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Isaiah 42:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness,
And will hold Your hand;
I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people,
As a light to the Gentiles,

Isaiah 49:6 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁶ Indeed He says,
‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant
To raise up the tribes of Jacob,
And to restore the preserved ones of Israel;
I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles,
That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”



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B. Israel's present rejection (Chap. 10)

Paul tries to explain why they are in their present state. Israel desired God righteousness, but they tried to obtain it in the wrong way, by keeping the law (works righteousness), like “religious people”. The other kind of righteousness comes from faith and trusting Christ (faith righteousness). Racial and religious pride kept the Jews from having a simple faith and to keep holding on to their blind religion. They rejected Christ and clung to the Law, not realizing that the Law was instituted to prepare the way to Christ. Righteousness by the Law is described in Lev. 18:5. Faith righteousness is described in Deut. 30:12-14. (See also Rom. 10:9-10; Gal. 2:16.)

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Deuteronomy 30:12-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹² It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, 'Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹³ Nor *is* it beyond the sea, that you should say, 'Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?' ¹⁴ But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.

Romans 10:9-10 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

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Galatians 2:16 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

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B. Israel's present rejection (Chap. 10) (cont.)

Christ's work on the cross was to make the salvation of the whole world possible. This was the original intent for the Jews, but they kept the "good news" to themselves, within their borders. God's plan to spread the Gospel is explained in **Rom. 10:14-17**, starting with the Jews first, but then to the whole world. Because of the general rejection of the Gospel by the Jews, God has now graciously opened the way for faith righteousness to the Gentiles. Jews and Gentiles have unbelief—the way of salvation is open to both, by faith alone. It is not difficult—even I believed and was saved (v.11).

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Romans 10:14-17 New King James Version (NKJV)

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written:

“How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,
Who bring glad tidings of good things!”

¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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C. Israel's future restoration (Chap. 11)

Israel had many special opportunities in the past, but they failed and God set them aside in discipline. Their failure today has opened up the opportunity for Gentiles to also be saved—God's plan all along. So what about the Jews? Has the nation of Israel been permanently rejected? No! This chapter shows that the Jews are always on His mind.

Ultimately there will be a time for national salvation. Paul is a prime example that God is not finished with the Jews, even if they completely reject God!

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C. Israel's future restoration (Chap. 11) (cont.)

God has always dealt with a believing remnant. Today the church is part of that remnant to spread the Gospel to a dying world. There is also a remnant of believing Jews, and together we must accomplish God's will in the world until He returns to take us to be with Him in heaven. Paul uses the horticultural example of the Gentiles being grafted in to the Jewish stock (foundation) and together bearing fruit for God's glory. Remember that the theme of chapter 11 is national, not personal.

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C. Israel's future restoration (Chap. 11) (cont.)

The final paragraph of the chapter (**Rom. 11:30-32**), explains that the Gentiles at one time rejected God, yet now were being saved by faith; so today the Jews are in unbelief, but shall one day receive mercy. God had committed Jews and Gentiles to unbelief and sin that He might be able to save both by grace (v.32). After reviewing God's gracious and wise plan of salvation for both Jews and Gentiles is there any wonder the Paul breaks out into the closing hymn of praise and doxology to the Lord?

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Romans 11:30-32 New King James Version (NKJV)

³⁰ For as you were once disobedient to God, yet have now obtained mercy through their disobedience, ³¹ even so these also have now been disobedient, that through the mercy shown you they also may obtain mercy. ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all.

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Final conclusion and doxology (Rom. 11:33-36)

- ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out!
- ³⁴ “For who has known the mind of the LORD?
Or who has become His counselor?”
- ³⁵ “Or who has first given to Him
And it shall be repaid to him?”
- ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.

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Application:

1. Past blessings are not a guarantee of success—
God's sovereign will requires our obedience.
2. Present rejection need not be permanent—
God's sovereign will is for all to be made righteous.
3. Future hope is guaranteed for the believer—
God's sovereign will deserves our worship and praise.