

I. Introduction

A. Review of Romans 9:1-23.

1. Paul passionately longs for the salvation of unbelieving Israel. v. 1-5
2. Has God's Word failed? v. 6a
God's purposes according to election are being worked out. v.
3. Is God fair to choose some over others? v. 14-17
God is free to show mercy or to harden whom He will among undeserving sinners. v. 15-18
4. If God controls everything, how can God blame those He hardens? v. 19
 - a. God's right: Who are you to challenge the Almighty? v. 20-21
 - b. God's reason: He is glorified both through His mercy and His wrath. v. 22-24

B. God's ways are beyond our understanding. 11:33-36 Isa. 55:8-9

1. Romans 9 is a true description of God, but not a comprehensive description. Ezek. 18:32 Ex. 34:6 II Pe. 3:9
2. While God's choice has nothing to do with human merit, it is not arbitrary.
3. We still make meaningful choices for which we are responsible (culpable). 9:30f

C. Why has Israel failed? 9:24-33

1. Israel's failure is according to the revealed purpose of God. v. 24-29
2. Israel is *responsible* for their unbelieving rejection of Christ. v. 30-33

II. Israel has stumbled according to God's revealed purpose. v. 24-29

A. God has called both Jews and Gentiles to be vessels of His mercy. v. 24

1. Paul introduces a new element: God is also saving some Gentiles. 1:16-17 2:10-11 3:22 Gen. 12:3 Mt. 8:11 Isa. 49:12 59:19
2. Jews and Gentiles are united in the church as God's holy people. Eph. 2:11-22 I Pe. 2:9-10 Gal. 3:14,26-29

B. Hosea foretold the calling of the Gentiles. v. 25-26 Hosea 2:23 1:10

1. The story of Hosea portrays God's relationship with His people.
 - a. Hosea's unfaithful wife is a picture of Israel's unfaithfulness to God. Ho. 1:2
 - b. The names of Gomer's children foretold judgment against Israel: *Scattered, Not-Loved, and Not-My-People*. Ho. 1:4-9
 - c. Gomer's restoration is a picture of what God would do for unworthy adulterous Israel. 1:10 2:14,19,23 3:1f
2. To whom does Hosea's prophecy apply?
 - a. Some suggest that Paul is referring to Israel's present unfaithfulness and future restoration.
 - b. Most believe that Paul is referring to God's grace to the Gentiles. I Pe.
3. Just as God showed mercy to Israel after she had been banished from His family, He has shown mercy to the Gentiles who once were excluded and unloved.
4. Gentiles are now included in His New Covenant People. Eph. 2:12 I Pe. 2:10

C. Isaiah predicted the destruction of all but a remnant of the Jews. v. 27-29

- Is. 10:21-23,5 1:9 14:24 11:11,1,5 46:3
1. In the past, God rejected the majority of faithless Israel and saved a remnant.
 2. What happened in Isaiah's day was only a foreshadowing of the greater event of Israel's rejection of the Messiah and the judgment which followed. Mt. 21:43

III. Israel is responsible for her failure. v. 30-33

- A. Gentiles, who were not pursuing God's righteousness, are receiving it anyway. v. 30**
 - 1. Paul is not referring to all Gentiles, but only to believers.
 - 2. They were not seeking God's righteousness. 9:4-5 1:18-32 3:10f Acts 14:16 17:30
 - 3. Those who didn't even enter the race have received the prize.
 - 4. The salvation of the Gentiles is only by God's sovereign grace and mercy. 9:16 Acts 13:44-48

- B. Most Jews are not gaining God's righteousness, in spite of their efforts. v. 31**

Why has Israel failed?

- C. Israel failed because they pursued righteousness by their works, rather than through faith. v. 32a 3:20,27 8:3 *They focused upon achieving rather than believing.***
 - 1. They failed to see the law demands a perfection they cannot attain. 3:19-20 Js.
 - 2. They failed to see the true method of justification, by faith, as shown by their father Abraham. 4:1f 3:27 Gen. 15:6
 - 3. They failed to see Christ in the law. 3:21-22,31 8:3 10:4 Gal. 3:13,24
 - 4. Sincerity in religion is not enough.

- D. Israel failed because they stumbled over Christ (the Rock of God). v. 32b-33**
 - 1. Isaiah proclaimed that those who put their trust in God as the Rock would be kept safe, but those who rejected Him would be crushed. Isa. 28:16 8:14
 - 2. Isaiah, and others, were looking ahead to Christ Jesus as the Rock. Ps. 118:22 I Pe. 2:6-8 Lu. 20:17-18 Mt. 21:42 7:24 Mark 12:10 Acts 4:11 Eph. 2:20
 - 3. He is a rock of salvation for those who trust in Him.
 - 4. He is a rock of destruction for those who reject Him (the Jews). Mt. 21:42-44 Dan. 2:34-35,44-45.
 - 5. This Jewish rejection of Jesus was foretold.
 - 6. Their repudiation of Christ does not thwart God's plan.

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. Who is responsible for Israel's failures? God or the Jews?**
 - 1. Romans 9:6-29 explains how anyone is saved: The sovereign electing mercy of God.
 - 2. Romans 9:30-33 explains why people are lost. Man is responsible for all sin and unbelief. Acts 17:30 Js. 1:13
 - 3. Beware of forsaking Scripture for a theological system.
 - 4. Paul does not pursue a philosophical resolution explaining how Sovereignty and human responsibility correlate as complements rather than contradicting.

- B. Many today are like those in Israel. I Co. 1:23 Ga. 5:11 Isa. 53:2-3**

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

- 1. Why has Israel failed from the Divine side?
- 2. Why has Israel failed from the human side?
- 3. How did Hosea predict the salvation of the Gentiles? v. 25-26
- 4. How did Isaiah predict what would happen among the Jews? v. 27-29
- 5. How are the Gentiles an illustration of God's sovereign grace? v. 30
- 6. Why are the Jews failing to gain God's righteousness?
- 7. Why did the Jews reject Christ?
- 8. What is the consequence of their failure?
- 9. Who is responsible for Israel's failure?
- 10. How do people today stumble over Christ?