**The Purpose of God According to Election**

*Romans 9, 10, 11*

**Introduction**

1. When sin entered the world, God pronounced judgment on the adversary who introduced it through his work of deception – ***“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Genesis 3:15)***.
   1. **This promise spoke of the Christ who would be born of woman.**
   2. God determined to carry out this plan through the fulfillment of promise which he made to Abram – ***“And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3)***.
   3. This was fulfilled in the coming of Christ, and His death on the cross (**cf. Galatians 4:4-5)**.
2. The promise given to Abram was three fold (**cf. Genesis 12:1-3** – Land, Nation, and Seed).
   1. The ultimate and transcendent promise was that of the Seed – Christ. (Salvation would come to the world through Him.)
   2. However, God determined to bring Christ about through the physical lineage of Abraham – Nation promise.
   3. The Jews were hung up on this fleshly aspect of the promise, and did not realize the ultimate blessing of the Seed promise would be given to those who had faith in the Christ – **Romans 4:16 – Promise given to those who follow after the faith of Abraham*.***
3. This was God’s plan all along, and when the Jews rejected it, because they rejected the Christ, God rejected them (**cf. Acts 13:46** – Paul speaking to unbelieving Jews.).
   1. **Romans 1:16-17** – The ultimate promise of salvation was designed by God to be brought about through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
   2. This gospel produced faith – ***“the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith’”*** – by which the Jews could be saved, but they rejected it.
4. This did not sit well with the Jews. They thought they were being treated unfairly by God, and that God was being unfaithful.
5. In **Romans 9-11** – *after setting the foundation in the previous chapters that all have sinned, and salvation is by grace through faith in Christ* – **Paul refutes the Jewish claim of God’s unfaithfulness, unfairness, and unrighteousness**.
   1. They thought that, because they were the physical nation of God, God was unfaithful in His rejection of them.
   2. What they did not understand was that the ***“purpose of God”*** – **plan to bring salvation to man** – was according to His choice, or ***“election,”*** not according to theirs.
   3. **They rejected His plan, so He rejected them.**
6. God’s Purpose, and Rejection of Israel (**chapter 9**)
7. Israel Accursed from Christ (**9:3-5**).
   1. The current state of ethnic Israel is separation from God.
   2. They were given the promises, and the Christ came through them (**v. 5**).
   3. **However, they rejected the Christ, so God rejected them.**
8. Israel’s Complaints:
   1. **God’s promise not fulfilled (v. 6)?**
      1. God gave them promises, but He rejected them. Has the word of God failed?
      2. No, God’s purpose (plan to save man) was accomplished through His choices:
         1. Children of promise, not flesh (Isaac) – **v. 6-9**.
         2. Purpose of God stands (is accomplished) according to His election (Jacob not Esau) – **v. 10-13**.
      3. **Salvation is according to God’s choice – faith in Christ – not according to flesh (ethnic Israel).**
         1. Ishmael was Abraham’s son according to flesh just as much as Isaac, but Isaac was chosen that it might be according to promise (Promised son.)
         2. Esau was Isaac’s son according to flesh just as much as Jacob, but God chose Jacob.
   2. **God is unrighteous (v. 14)?**
      1. No, God is sovereign, **and it is His prerogative to choose who He will have mercy on.** (I.e. by what means men may obtain mercy from the Lord.)
      2. **V. 15-18** – God decides who He will have mercy on, not Israel.
         1. Israel says He should have mercy on them according to flesh.
         2. God chooses to have mercy on any who have faith in Christ.
   3. **God is unfair (v. 19)?**
      1. Is God unfair for making that choice?
      2. No, we have no right to question God **(v. 20-21).**
      3. Vessels of wrath, and mercy (**v. 22-24**):
         1. Wrath – prepared for destruction (**they prepared themselves that way by rejecting God’s will**).
         2. Mercy – He prepared for glory (**He prepared them for glory through His gospel, by which He called them – v. 24**).
      4. Only the remnant of Israel is saved (**v. 27-28**).
         1. It was never intended that all fleshly Israel be saved.
         2. **The purpose of God was that those who had faith would be saved, and only a remnant of Israel would have such.**
      5. God is not unfair for rejecting Israel, because they rejected His plan of righteousness by faith (**v. 30-33**).
9. Israel’s Need – The Gospel (**chapter 10**)
10. Paul’s desire, as well as God’s, is that Israel will be saved (**v. 1**).
11. **How will can they be saved? According to God’s plan – the word of faith – the gospel.**
    1. (**v. 8-13)** – they must believe in Christ, and submit to His gospel (call upon His name).
    2. (**v. 16-18**) – They have not obeyed or believed.
    3. (**v. 19-21**) – God rejected the Jews who did not believe, and accepted the Gentiles who did. They were disobedient to God’s will.
12. Israel Can Be Grafted In Again (**chapter 11**)
13. ***“Has God cast away His people?”*** (**v. 1-6)**
    1. **(v. 1-2a**) – God did not reject the Jews arbitrarily just because they were physical Israel.
       1. If this were the case, then Paul would be lost too.
       2. **However, Paul was saved because he had faith in Christ.**
    2. (**v. 2b-6**) – Just as in the days of Elijah, some were left over who were faithful.
       1. This ***“remnant”*** were not left over due to an arbitrary decision of God.
       2. **They were saved by grace through faith in the Christ.** (*They were obedient to God, just as those in the days of Elijah were obedient to God by not bowing to Baal.*)
14. Are the Gentiles better? (**v. 16-27**)
    1. (**v. 13**) – Paul begins to address the Gentiles.
    2. **(v. 16-18**) – No reason for boasting because of their being grafted in. (Saved by grace, God supports them, not the other way around.)
    3. (**v. 19-22**) – God’s acceptance of them should not cause them to be haughty.
       1. God grafted them in by grace through their faith in Christ (**v. 20**).
       2. God rejected the Jews for unbelief, and if the Gentiles stooped to unbelief they would be rejected as well (**v. 21-22**).
    4. (**v. 23-27**) – The Jews can still be saved in the same manner as the Gentiles.
       1. **God did not cast away the Jews because they were fleshly Israel, but because they were disobedient to the gospel.**
       2. If they did ***“not continue in unbelief”*** – *i.e. if they repented and obeyed the gospel* – God would save them just as He did the Gentiles.
       3. **(v. 26)** – ***“And so all Israel will be saved,”*** or **IN THIS WAY** – just as the Gentiles.

**Conclusion**

1. God’s purpose before the foundation of the world was to save men by grace through faith in Christ.
2. The Jews became conceited as the chosen physical nation of God, and did not accept the gospel of Christ.
3. God rejected them for their unbelief, but would accept them if they repented and had faith.
4. Lessons we can learn:
   1. **We must not question God’s judgments and plans, but submit to them.**
   2. **We must not forget why we are in God’s favor** (**cf.** **11:18, 22**). (*We must remain faithful to God if we wish to remain in His grace.)*