

PREPARATION FOR LESSON: Read Romans 9 - 16**BACKGROUND** see lesson 6A

In the local churches of Rome, Gentile believers are teaching...

That God is finished with the nation of Israel because the Sanhedrin rejected Jesus as their Messiah

That God has replaced the Jewish nation with the Church

That even tho the Jews were God's elect / chosen people in the past, He has now rejected them forever

That they have no future and that God will never again use them in ministry or for His glory

In chapters 9-11, Paul corrects these wrong ideas. He explains the role God gave the Jews as a nation. He writes about their privilege, their choice and their future. The focus is on the Jews as a nation / people - their **national** salvation.

OUTLINE**Thru faith in Jesus, there is...**

- I. Personal Salvation for individuals 1 - 8
- II. National Salvation for the Jewish nation 9 - 11
- III. Practical Salvation for individual believers 12 - 16

EXPLANATIONS**Chapter 9 The privilege of the Jewish nation / people**

God chose / adopted the Jewish nation as His son. He revealed Himself thru the visible glory of His presence, the *Shechinah*. He gave them unconditional covenants plus the temporary covenant with the laws of Moses. He gave them the Levitical priesthood to serve Him. He gave promises about their Messiah in His first and second coming and His kingdom. He gave them Abraham, Isaac and Jacob so the Jewish race could be uniquely formed. Their greatest privilege was to have Jesus their promised Messiah live among them. But Jewish leadership, the Sanhedrin, stumbled over the stumbling stone. They rejected Jesus and told the people to reject Him.

However, this does not mean God's plan for the Jewish nation will come to an end. God is sovereign. No matter what people do, God's eternal plan can never be ruined or kept from being fulfilled. But how it is fulfilled is determined by **choices**.

As God worked thru past Jewish history, he will repeat it in the future.

In the past, God worked thru only one of Abraham's 8 sons. It was based on the faith that Abraham & Sarah chose to have in God's promise. Based on mercy, God worked only thru one of Isaac's twin boys. Based on mercy, from Isaac's family, He only chose Jacob. From them He formed the Jewish race.

In the 1st century, from the nation of Israel, God will continue to work only thru the believing Jewish remnant. Again it is based on their faith & God's mercy.

In the past God, in sovereignty, predestined Moses and Pharaoh to get the Jews out of Egypt. In free-will, Moses chose to co-operate and became a vessel of honor. Pharaoh refused and became a vessel thru whom God's judgment came.

God has predestinated specific Jews for the future, thru whom Jewish history will be fulfilled in national salvation.

In the past, Pharaoh's choice to reject God did not stop God's plan.

In the 1st century, the Jew's national choice to reject Jesus has not stopped God's plan for Israel.

God's plan for the Jewish nation will happen because God is sovereign.

Chapter 10 The choice of the Jewish nation / people

God holds the Sanhedrin responsible for their choice. They were unwilling to accept national salvation thru Jesus, their Messiah. They wanted to make it happen by keeping Mishnah (man-made) laws. In addition, they did not want God's plan of blessing and ministry to include the Gentiles. This meant they would never go and preach God's message to the Gentiles. In rebelliousness, they rejected their Messiah.



EXPLANATIONS

Chapter 11 The future of the Jewish nation / people

Because of the Sanhedrin's decision, has God decided to abandon His people, the Jews? Absolutely not! Altho they rejected Him, it does not mean He will reject them. There will always be a believing remnant, as in the days of Elijah. It will always be on the basis of grace. The Jewish believing remnant of the 1st century is still God's elect, the Israel of God, spiritual Israel.

In free-will, the Sanhedrin make a choice that brings consequences to them and the nation. While they still represent the physical nation of Israel, they no longer represent spiritual Israel, the Israel of God. The Sanhedrin are now spiritually insensitive - spiritually blind. They cannot see their spiritual need. This will become more and more true of the Jews as a people and nation.

In sovereignty, God is using, and will continue to use this to accomplish even greater goals. National Jewish unbelief will lead to the salvation of Gentiles as a people. Their salvation, in turn, will lead to the salvation of the Jews as a people

In chapter 11, Paul is not talking about Jews or Gentiles as individuals or about individual salvation. He is only talking about Jews and Gentiles as a people or unit.

In his illustration of the olive tree, Paul goes a step further. To make a contrast, in this illustration only, he uses Gentile believers to represent the Church. Jewish believers represent the Jewish nation. This illustration is to correct the wrong teaching of Gentile believers in the local churches in Rome.

The **root** represents God's covenant with Abraham. Spiritual blessing and ministry to the world would come thru the Jewish people. God's message would come thru them.

The **tree** represents that blessing and ministry of giving God's message.

The **natural branches** represent the Jews as a nation and people.

For 2,000 years, God's message to the world came thru them. Because of national unbelief, they temporarily have lost that opportunity - "broken off. For a time, God will not spiritually bless them or use them as a nation.

Grafted branches represent the Church. For a time, God's message and blessing will come thru the Church.

God is letting her participate in the spiritual blessing and ministry that belonged to the Jews. She will take part **in**, but **not** permanently **take-over** this role. God is also using the Church to make the Jews realize what they have lost, so they will want their blessings and ministry back again. But the Church should not become proud. When she changes God's message because of unbelief in His promises, there will be nothing more God can do thru her (when her *fullness has come*). God will then remove the Church and once again work only thru the Jewish believing remnant.



From the beginning, God **called** the Jews to be His chosen people, His elect. He gave them the **gift** of covenant promises. That calling and those promises are irrevocable - they can never be changed. It is why, eventually, all surviving Jews will have national salvation - they will all believe. 11:26-29

Paul marvels at how God can take all the events in history, no matter what people do and still fulfill every one of the promises He made to the Jews in the Old Testament 11:33-36

Chapters 12-16 Practical salvation for individual believers

We, as individual believers, have a **responsibility to...**

God Obedience thru having God's values from reading / studying His Word. Unfortunately, the values of society infect our attitudes, actions and choices. We want our way instead of God's way.



EXPLANATIONS

Chapters 12-16 Practical salvation for individual believers (continued)

- Other believers** Use our spiritual gifts in humility; be careful in our attitudes so we are supportive of others; Be generous towards God's people within the local church; harmony with God's people unless it compromises our faith or actions.
- Enemies** When persecuted for our faith, we are not to retaliate or want to get even.
- Government** Obedience to laws that do not violate God's laws; pay taxes; give honor to whom honor is due.
- Society** Consideration for others by doing what is right; making the most of our opportunities.
- Weaker believers** To those who have limitations in practicing their faith (in matters of conscience such as day of worship or use of alcohol, etc.), we are not to criticize, not to argue or not to flaunt our freedom. This only applies to man-made rules, never to God's commands in the New Testament, given to the Church.
- False teachers** Keep away from false teachers and false teaching. We can be deceived and it causes divisions.

APPLICATION Romans 15:13

May the God of certainty fill you with inner stability and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with certainty by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Hope means certainty; joy means inner stability.**

Tragedy and sorrow can touch any of our lives at any moment. In many of our decisions we face uncertainty. We have no idea what is going to happen in the coming months or years.

Paul reminds us to put our focus – not on the chaos but on God. **Here are the things we CAN be sure of.**

There is nothing people or even Satan can do that can stop God's plan from being fulfilled.

God is a God of certainty. He always keeps His promises.

He is always with us.

His grace and power are always available to us.

The Holy Spirit is always within us to teach, to guide and to comfort us.

As we overflow with **these** certainties about God, our lives will be filled with inner stability in the midst of chaos. We will be filled with peace in the midst of conflict.

God's answer for the days in which we live - **HAVE CERTAINTY ABOUT GOD!**

