



## Romans 9:1-7

### Paul's Burden for Israel

- *Romans* chapters 9-11 – about Israel but also essential for our own salvation
  - Our position/place vs. that of Israel
    - past (*Rom 9*), present (*Rom 10*), future (*Rom 11*)
  - In the future, God will share His mercy with the remnant of Israel – the principle of hope.
    - This promise is not according to the flesh, but a spiritual seed.
- *Rom 9:1-3 - NIV 'I speak the truth in Christ – I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit, I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race,'*



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- The background: *Acts 23:12* – ‘*And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.*’
- Paul is demonstrating here his great love for the Israelites
  - He ‘*speaks the truth in Christ*’
  - He states that ‘*I am not lying*’
  - His ‘*conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit*’
  - He is experiencing ‘*great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart*’
    - Imperfect tense
    - Present tense
  - He is willing ‘*that I could wish myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race,*’
    - Reminds us of Moses – *Ex 32:31-32* ‘*And Moses returned unto the*



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*LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold. Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written.*

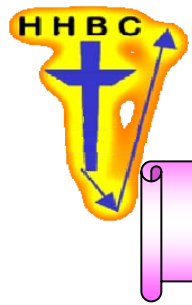
- **I thought Paul just said (Rom 8:39) that ‘nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus’?**
- What’s he saying here?
- Have we translated verse 3 correctly?
  - » McGee claims ‘No!’; thus, his view of what Paul is saying here – ‘*For I was once myself accursed from Christ, just like my brethren. I know I cannot be accursed, and I want them to come to know Christ and be in my present position.*’
  - » ‘*I could wish*’, *hucomhn* - idiomatic (cultural, individualistic) imperfect (continual, repeated), ‘*I was on the point of wishing.*’
  - » **Your thoughts?**
  - » How about – ‘*For I could wish that I myself were cursed, but...*’
    - if it were possible (but it’s not)?



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- *Rom 9:4,5 – NIV ‘the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.*
- **The Uniqueness of Israel – God’s ‘8’ Blessings**
  - **The Adoption – divine and national**
    - The only nation declared to be a son - *Ex 4:22, Hosea 11:1*
      - Other verses reflecting this special relationship – *Deut 7:6, Isaiah 66:22, Amos 3:2, Jer 31:9*
    - The same Greek term (huiiothesia) used for us as believers – *Rom 8:15*
  - **The Glory**
    - *doxa* - Shekinah/Abiding



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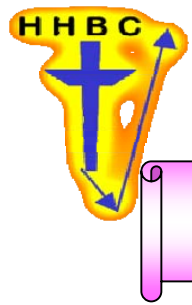
- In the wilderness, filling the Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple –  
*Ex 25:8, 21,22, Ex 40: 34-38, II Chron 5:14*
- Are we in any way less privileged today?
  - » *John 17:22 – 'And **the glory** which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.'*
- **The Covenants**
  - FOUNDATIONAL – Abrahamic Covenant - *Gen 12:1-3; 15:18, 17:2-7*
    - » Land – Palestinian Covenant – *Deut 30:1-10*
    - » Seed – Davidic Covenant – *II Sam 7:4-17*
    - » Blessing – New Covenant – *Jer 31:31-34*
  - Newell – "With "covenants", Gentiles have absolutely nothing actively to do"
- **The Law**
  - *Ex 19:3-31:18*



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- No other nation was so addressed or 'privileged?'
- **Service of God**
  - Relates to all of the ordinances under which Israel was placed
    - » Initiated in Egypt with The Passover – *Ex 12:25-28*
    - » The tribe of Levi (the priests) and the Tabernacle/Temple worship – *Ex 38:21, Num 1:47-54, 3:5-12, I Chron 23:24-32*
    - » **Not for the Body of Christ** - *Gal 4:9* “*But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?*”
- **The Promises**
  - An 'announcement' or often used to denote God's gracious provisions, e.g.
    - » Salvation promises in Abraham – *Gen 12:3*
    - » Land promises in Abraham – *Gen 13:14,15*
    - » Kingdom promises in David – *I Chron 29:10,11, II Sam 7:16*



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- **The Patriarchs**

- The Fathers – Abraham, Isaac, Jacob → 12 sons

- » *Gen 49:8-10 'Judah, thou [art he] whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand [shall be] in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. **Judah** [is] a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? **The sceptre shall not depart from Judah**, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **until Shiloh come**; and unto him [shall] the gathering of the people [be].'*

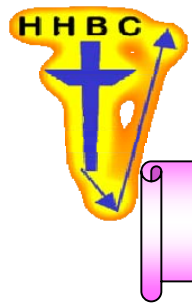
- » God's specific selection – *Deut 10:15*

- **Christ the Messiah**

- *'and from them is traced the human ancestry'*

- *Rom 1:3, Matt 1:1, Heb 2:16, John 4:9*

- » **Nothing but Jewish roots!**



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- And He is *'over all'*
  - » *'all'* - each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything
  - » *Matt 28:18, I Cor 15:27, Col 1:16,17*
- God's 8<sup>th</sup> blessing is not last by mistake - **and appears to excel the rest.**
- *'God blessed forever, Amen.'*
  - *Rom 1:25 'Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.'*
    - » Note the *'Amen'* after both verses!
- *Rom 9:6 'It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.'*





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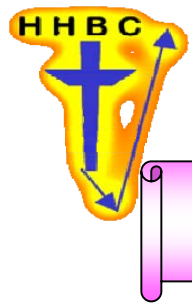
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- Has God's Word really failed?
  - What about all those promises?
    - *'Isaiah 55:11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.'*
- *'For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel'*
  - Doesn't this appear to be a strange statement?



Here we begin to dissect the **'Natural Israel'** from the **'Spiritual Israel'**

- *Rom 9:7 'Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.'*
  - A reminder of the foundation of mankind's relationship to God



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- *Gen 21:12* ‘And God said unto Abraham, Let it not be grievous in thy sight because of the lad, and because of thy bondwoman; in all that Sarah hath said unto thee, hearken unto her voice; **for in Isaac shall thy seed be called.**’
- *Gal 3:6,7* ‘Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that **they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**’
- *Rom 2:28,29* ‘For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: **But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly;** and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.’
- How do these verses impact us as believers?
  - Reflect on your experiences with Jews.
  - Does it relate at all in how we share the gospel with them?