**CHAPTERS 9-11 – “Open Bible”:**

**“ISRAEL’S PAST… PRESENT & FUTURE”**

**OPEN BIBLE COMMENTARY: “**It appears that God has rejected His people, Israel, but it is really Israel who has rejected her Messiah. God’s rejection of Israel is only partial… and temporary…”

As a result of this rejection of Christ we the church have been “grafted in” as the carriers and ambassadors of the gospel. **See Romans 11**

Israel will someday be grafted back into the “Vine” or back into their Messiah… But first something major must happen… What? The removal of the church by means of the rapture…

SO… The next three chapters are important! Paul will be making his case for God’s sovereignty in choosing Israel… Shelving Israel… and then finishing with Israel… SO… Get ready for some Judeology…

We are led to this study by a Jew who was trained as a Pharisee by the top school of his day and who led a zealous group of investigators tasked with protecting the Temple from dangerous insurgents… Then, on the road to Damascus, this prestigious Jew named Saul met the Messiah. The encounter left him weak, blinded, alone… and born again. He lost his job, his title, his family and friends, his health… but wrote 14 books of our New Testament… He would be accused of lying about all of this by his enemies (former colleagues …) But he starts this section off by saying…

**Romans 9:1** **I tell the truth in Christ**, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart.

* Wow… What is causing this kind of heartbreak in the Apostle’s heart?
* His heart is continually broken… for whom? His country, Israel!

**PAUL’S LOVE FOR ISRAEL**

3 For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen ***(IE, family)*** according to the flesh,

* Paul is willing to go to hell if it were possible to save his nation…
* Moses also was willing to perish in exchange for his countrymen… **EXODUS 32:32 *SUCH LOVE!***
* Paul continues by listing the blessings of being Jewish…

4 who are Israelites, to whom *pertain* the adoption, ***(Chosen people)*** the glory, ***(Reputation… for Shekinah)*** the covenants, ***(Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David)*** the giving of the law, ***(Thursday’s reading)*** the service *of God,* ***(How to approach)*** and the ***(7000)*** promises; ***(ALL STILL IN EFFECT)***

**THE BEST BLESSING…**

5 of whom *are* the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, **Christ *came****,* **who is** over all, *the* eternally blessed **God**. Amen.

* WHO is God forever? Just for our cultists knocking and calling now… “Christ… the eternally blessed God.”

**GOD CHOSE ISAAC ONLY**

6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they *are* not all Israel who *are* of Israel, 7 nor *are they* all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, "IN ISAAC ***(Not Ishmael)*** YOUR SEED SHALL BE CALLED." **Genesis 21:12**

* **NLT** - not all who are born into the nation of Israel are truly members of God's people! 7 Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted," though Abraham had other children, too.

**WAITING FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM**

8 That is, those who *are* the children of the flesh, these *are* not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed. 9 For this *is* the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON." **GEN. 18:10**

* **Chuck Smith** – Ishmael was born of flesh… Unbelief… A shortcut… A lapse of faith… Abraham… “The Man Of Faith” according to God had this blunder of faith just as we do sometimes…
* **Comfort one another with these words** 😊

**PREBIRTH ELECTION**

10 And not only *this,* but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac 11 (for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), 12 it was said to her, "THE OLDER SHALL SERVE THE YOUNGER." **GEN. 25:23**

* **NLT** - This son was our ancestor Isaac. When he married Rebekah, she gave birth to twins. 11 But before they were born, before they had done anything good or bad, she received a message from God. (This message shows that God chooses people according to His own purposes; 12 He calls people, but not according to their good or bad works.) She was told, "Your older son will serve your younger son."
* **AGAIN** – We see the sovereignty of God… HE makes His choices. He knows the heart of people BEFORE they are even born… HE KNOWS… And, He has always known… **YOU!**

13 As it is written, "JACOB I HAVE LOVED, BUT ESAU I HAVE HATED. ***(Rejected)***" **MALACHI 1:2** 14 What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 For He says to Moses, "I WILL HAVE MERCY ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE MERCY, AND I WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON WHOMEVER I WILL HAVE COMPASSION." **EXODUS 33:19**

* Rather than stressing over why God would reject Esau… I choose to rejoice over the fact that God has had compassion on ME!
* God KNEW Esau would disrespect spiritual things…
* God also knew that you and I would choose Him! THAT is why He has chosen to show his compassion to us, beloved!
* DO WE BELIEVE That chose some to suffer in hell while choosing others to go to heaven? Calvinists say yes… We say no because:
* **1 Timothy 2:3-4** - For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
* BTW, When did God say these words to Moses? **COURSON** - After the people of Israel had sinned by dancing around the golden calf, Moses prayed for them, and God said, "I'll pardon them" (see Exo\_33:19). Why? Because of His sovereignty.

16 So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. **NLT** - So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it.

**Next week** – We will look at Pharaoh as a test case of God choosing to harden someone’s heart. Why would He? Join us next week – BUT… Until then, finish your work with God… He will NOT turn you away!

**John 6:37** JESUS - All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

**Make Jesus your Savior today!**