

# Romans 9-10: God's Purpose for Israel

*A brief commentary on this challenging portion of Scripture*

Romans 9:1-5	After the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God begins to primarily save Gentiles instead of Jews. Paul grieves for his fellow Israelites who are not being saved.
Romans 9:6-9	But has God's promise to save Israel failed? No, it has not! There is a physical nation of Israel, but also a spiritual Israel, including all those whom God has chosen to save.
Romans 9:10-13	Paul gives a clear example of how God elected some to salvation while passing others by. We don't like this because we like to be in control—but we can't ignore God's Word.
Romans 9:14-16	Paul clearly states that salvation is of the Lord. He alone will choose on whom He will have mercy and compassion. Does that make God unrighteous or unfair? Absolutely not, Paul writes! Truthfully, we all deserve to go to hell. In His grace, God spares some.
Romans 9:17-18	In the book of Exodus, when God sent the ten plagues on Egypt before the Israelites were allowed to leave, Pharaoh was not given an opportunity to be saved. God raised him up for a different purpose—to display His power through the plagues for all to see.
Romans 9:19-21	Paul anticipates our objection. God isn't fair if He chooses to save some and not others! Where is our choice? But Paul doesn't give an answer. Instead, he puts us in our place. God created each of us to do with us as He wishes. We think far too highly of ourselves.
Romans 9:22-24	We are far more sinful than we realize and we fail to understand just how longsuffering (patient) God is with us. In eternity, we will all glorify God—either by receiving His mercy and grace, or by receiving His wrath for our sin.
Romans 9:25-26 <small>(quoted from Hosea 1:10 and 2:23)</small>	Over 700 years before Christ came to earth, God told the Jews through the prophet Hosea that, in the future, many Gentiles would come to be a part of God's people. Paul continues to show us that this was all part of God's plan from the very beginning.
Romans 9:27-28 <small>(quoted from Isaiah 10:22-23)</small>	Many Israelites falsely believed that their nation alone would be saved, and that they had to earn that salvation by keeping God's law. Now that Paul has shown us how all of Abraham's descendants were not saved but salvation came through Isaac (Romans 9:7), and how God chose Jacob over Esau before either of them were born, in order to demonstrate His purpose of election that is based on nothing we do (Romans 9:11), he now goes further, showing how the prophet Isaiah told the Israelites that many of them would not be saved, but that only a small remnant would actually be saved by God.
Romans 9:29 <small>(quoted from Isaiah 1:9 and Genesis 19)</small>	Paul reminds the Israelites that they (and the same is true for all of us) can do nothing apart from God's will. God chose to save some of them for His own good pleasure, but had God made a different choice, the nation of Israel might have just as easily been as wicked as the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, which God destroyed for their sins.
Romans 9:30-31	Based on everything he has written so far to the Romans (especially what we have read in chapter 9), Paul concludes that God is now saving many Gentiles, just as He said He would throughout many Old Testament prophecies, while most of the Jews have not received God's gift of salvation. Why? Paul answers that for us in the next two verses.

Romans 9:32-33  (quoted from Isaiah 8:14 and 28:16)	Many of the Jews did not seek God by faith, but instead tried to earn their salvation by keeping God’s law. But none of us can earn salvation (Isaiah 64:6), and God gave us His law to show us that we cannot keep it and we need a Savior (Galatians 3:24). Jesus Christ is the stone that God laid that many stumble over, missing out on true salvation.
Romans 10:1-3	Paul, who himself is a Jew, a descendant of the nation of Israel, shares the burden that rests on his heart for his fellow Jews, that they might be saved. He even admits that they are passionate about serving God—but they don’t serve God according to knowledge. Instead, they try to keep the law, rather than submitting to Jesus Christ.
Romans 10:4	For those who believe in Christ, we are not required to strictly keep the law. We should try to be obedient to God, so that we might be a good witness of Him to others and that the world would notice a difference in us, but we cannot earn salvation in that way.
Romans 10:5-7  (quoted from Deut. 30:11-14)	Using expressions that were common among Jews to describe something that seemed impossible, Paul works toward showing them that believing in Christ is not impossible.
Romans 10:8-10  (quoted from Deut. 30:11-14)	After showing the Jews that salvation does not depend on their works, he then explains what salvation truly is all about—faith in Jesus Christ, who was raised from the dead.
Rom. 10:11-13  (quoted from Isaiah 28:16 and Joel 2:32)	Here we find one of the most commonly misused verses in all of the Bible, because many people fail to consider its context. Romans 10:13 does not say that one must simply call Jesus “Lord” to be saved, for that would disagree with Matthew 7:22 as well as many other verses that speak of the fruit that will be evident in the life of a true believer. Sadly, this has led to many false assurances. Instead, this is a conclusion of what Paul has been saying, as he quotes a prophecy from Joel about salvation coming to the Gentiles. Thus, he concludes that anyone can be saved, whether Jew or Gentile.
Rom. 10:14-15  (quoted from Isaiah 52:7)	Paul explains why the gospel message must go forth into Gentile lands, for how will they know of the good news of salvation through Christ unless people go and tell them?
Rom. 10:16-17  (quoted from Isaiah 53:1)	Making a further conclusion, Paul points out that Gentiles must hear the Word of God in order to be saved. Many do not and will not believe, but still the Word of God must first be preached and taught, then God will use that to save whomever He will save.
Rom. 10:18-19  (quoted from Psalm 19:4 and Deuteronomy 32:21)	Why is God saving any of us who are not Jews? Our human pride gets in the way, and we think it has something to do with what He sees in us. No, it has nothing to do with us at all. God is saving some Gentiles in order to provoke the Jews to jealousy, because they provoked God to jealousy by wandering off and worshipping false idols. In their pride, Israel failed to realize what God had told them through prophets as far back as Moses—that He would provoke them to jealousy by saving others who are not Jews.
Rom. 10:20-21  (quoted from Isaiah 65:1-2)	Time after time in the Old Testament, Israel disobeyed God. So God has now brought salvation to the Gentiles instead, making Himself known to us who otherwise would not know Him. That is the message of Romans 9-10. Praise God that He is saving Gentiles!

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