

GOD'S PURPOSE OF ELECTION IN ROMANS CHAPTER NINE

God chose Israel to bless the whole world with the Law, the promises, and Christ coming in the flesh. Romans chapter nine concerns “God’s purpose of election” of the nation of Israel to fulfill the unconditional promises made to Abraham. Even though Israel was unfaithful to God, His promises and purpose has not failed. In verse 16, God’s purpose in the election of Israel did not depend upon the will, desires, zeal, or efforts of unfaithful Israelites. In verses 17 and 18, just like Pharaoh, Israel’s hardness and unfaithfulness is used to fulfill God’s promise to all people including the Gentiles. In verses 19-22, the clay refers to Israelites, some of which were vessels of honor and some others not so much. God enduring with much patience “vessels of wrath prepared for destruction” are the Jews with hard hearts who were unfaithful to submission to God’s righteousness (Romans 10:3).

In verses 10-14, God establishes the fact that He instigated the fulfillment of the promises and used the Israelites according to His will in regard to their service to Him. God used the cooperating Israelites and God used those who were rebellious in such a way to bring about the greater good in redemption. God used Jacob not because of his works, but in spite of his being a deceiver. Jacob was chosen for a greater purpose than Esau. Esau was chosen for a lesser purpose but this did not mean that Esau was despised or rejected. Esau was actually blessed being the father of a nation of people.

So, Romans 9 is especially about God’s choosing Israel to bless the world and it is not about how God chooses those “in Christ” to be holy and blameless (Ephesians 1:4).

Since Genesis 3 and to the present time, God has taken those who come to believe in Christ and receive Christ, given them eternal life, and chosen to make them new creations, holy and blameless. “But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God.” John 1:12a “How much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.” Romans 5:17b

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

“For He chose us in Christ before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.”

Ephesians 1:4 The Eternal Son of God was before creation. God chose that those who receive Christ during their lifetime will be made holy and blameless in His sight.

