

The Book of Romans

The Gospel of God

What is the purpose of God according to election?

(Romans 9:11)

Romans 9-11

Israel and the Promise of God

⁶ But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are from Israel;

⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE CALLED."

⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are reckoned as descendants.

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."

¹⁰ And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac;

¹¹ for though they were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to election might stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls,

¹² it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."

¹³ Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

(Romans 9:6-13)

Summary:

➤ *they are not Israel who are from Israel*

- the creation of *true* Israel is only by the word of promise, not according to the flesh
- the creation of *true* Israel is by God's election and calling, not based on any human activity

What is God's Purpose?

- God's election of individuals to salvation or merely of nations to historical tasks?
 - God's immediate purpose is the establishment of Israel through Isaac and Jacob
 - Context of Genesis 25:23 – “two nations...”
 - Context of Malachi 1:1-5 – Israel and Edom

What is God's Purpose?

- Individuals not merely nations:
 1. Paul is grieved over the accursed state of his kinsmen, individual Israelites
 2. Paul's chief argument is nullified if he is referring merely to the election of the nation Israel
 3. Paul's purpose in these illustrations is to establish the *principle* of how “children of God” are created
 4. The larger context makes it clear that Paul has in view the salvation of individual Israelites (cf. 11:5-7)

What is God's Purpose?

- “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated”

The oracle of the word of the LORD to Israel through Malachi.

² “I have loved you,” says the LORD. But you say, “How have You loved us?” “*Was* not Esau Jacob's brother?” declares the LORD. “Yet I have loved Jacob; ³ but I have hated Esau, and I have made his mountains a desolation and *appointed* his inheritance for the jackals of the wilderness.” ⁴ Though Edom says, “We have been beaten down, but we will return and build up the ruins”; thus says the LORD of hosts, “They may build, but I will tear down; and *men* will call them the wicked territory, and the people toward whom the LORD is indignant forever.”

(Malachi 1:1-4)

What is God's Purpose?

- “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated”
 - Jacob was the object of the specific distinguishing love of God in a way that Esau was not
 - God's hatred (non-choice) of Esau entails a giving over to his sin which brings judgment