

Romans 9-11

A Panel Discussion

6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
Sunday, August 28 and September 4, 2016
Williamsburg Community Chapel

A Panel Discussion

- ♦ Moderator: Clarke Morledge
 - ♦ Questions? cmorledge@gmail.com
 - ♦ <http://sharedveracity.net>
- ♦ Our Panel:
 - ♦ Doug Bunn, Rich Sylvester
 - ♦ Hunter Ruch, Wes White, Claude Marshall
- ♦ Agenda for the Evening Discussion

Why Romans 9-11?

- ♦ Romans 9-11 is Difficult, Yet Important for Understanding the Bible
 - ♦ Assume you have read Romans 9-11
- ♦ Some Here are New to the Bible
 - ♦ Hang in there! Keep reading, studying, and asking questions!
- ♦ Some Have Studied This Before
 - ♦ Do you know why you believe what you believe? Not what to think, but how to think!
- ♦ Pray for the Holy Spirit to Give Us Wisdom!

Dick Woodward on Romans 9-11

- ◆ Dick Woodward's New Testament Handbook, p. 266-267.
- ◆ "The nation of Israel is a key to the Scriptures... a key to the prophetic Scriptures"
- ◆ "These three chapters of Scripture are the most important chapters in the Bible:"
 - ◆ "On the subject of election or predestination"
 - ◆ "On the subject of free will or freedom of choice"
 - ◆ "On the subject of biblical prophecy"

“Disputable Matters” (Romans 14:1 NIV)

- ◆ In the essentials of our faith, we agree
 - ◆ Chapel Statement of Faith: <http://wcchapel.org/about-us/what-we-believe>
- ◆ In the non-essentials of our faith, we agree-to-disagree
 - ◆ Major on the majors, minor on the minors
- ◆ “Agree-to-disagree” does not mean we do not discuss
 - ◆ Let us talk with one another, in love for each other, and learn from each other!
 - ◆ “Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters.”

Background to Romans 9-11

- ♦ Paul's Commission to Preach to the Gentiles
 - ♦ Acts 22:21-22 Not well received by his fellow Jews
 - ♦ "Away with such a fellow from the earth!"
- ♦ Letter to the Romans written to a divided church
 - ♦ Jews, including Jewish Christians, had been kicked out of Rome
 - ♦ Now, Jews have been allowed back into Rome
 - ♦ Gentile believers have difficult time accepting Jewish brethren
 - ♦ Paul writes his letter to heal the breach between Jew and Gentile believers

Paul's Concern for the Jews

- ♦ (8:33) Who shall bring any charge against God's elect?
- ♦ (8:35) Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?
 - ♦ -Addressed to those who have faith in Christ (the church)
 - ♦ -God keeps His promises to the believer
- ♦ (9:1-5) Paul's anguish over his fellow Jews
 - ♦ -Why have so many not recognized Jesus as their Messiah?
 - ♦ -Has God gone back on His promises to Israel?
 - ♦ -Has God's Word failed?

Paul's Answer to the Objection

- ♦ (9:6) "For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel"
 - ♦ -(9:9) example #1: Isaac & Ishmael (Genesis 21:12)
 - ♦ -(9:10-13) example #2: Jacob & Esau (Gen 25:23, Malachi 1:2ff)
- ♦ (9:14) Is God unjust? No! Exodus 32:19
 - ♦ -God is not unfair
 - ♦ -(9:15) "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion."
 - ♦ -(9:17) example of Pharoah (Exodus 9:16)

Paul Continues His Answer

- ◆ (9:19) “Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?”
 - ◆ -(9:20-24) The clay and the potter (Jeremiah 18:1-11)
- ◆ (9:25-29) God prepares a way for the Gentiles
 - ◆ -(9:25-26) Hosea 1:2-10, 2:23
 - ◆ -(9:27-29) Isaiah 10:20-22, 1:9
 - ◆ -Only a remnant of Israel will be saved

Why Does Israel Fail to Believe?

- ♦ (9:30-33) They pursue salvation by works, and not by faith
 - ♦ -They stumble over the stumbling stone (Isaiah 28:16, 8:14)
- ♦ (10:1) Paul's desire is still for Israel's salvation
- ♦ (10:2-4) They have zeal but no knowledge
 - ♦ -(10:4) Christ is the end of the Law
- ♦ (10:8-13) Example of Moses: (Lev 18:5, Deut. 30:11-14)
 - ♦ -Having faith vs. keeping the Law
 - ♦ -(10:13) Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved
 - ♦ -from Joel 2:32. The call for everyone to have faith, exercising free-will.

The Call to Have Faith and Believe

- ♦ (10:14-21) The importance of sharing your faith with others
 - ♦ -How can people believe, if no one tells them about Jesus?
 - ♦ -Gentile belief will provoke unbelieving Israel to jealousy
 - ♦ -Isaiah 52:7
 - ♦ -Isaiah 53:1
 - ♦ -Psalm 19:4
 - ♦ -Deuteronomy 32:21
 - ♦ -Isaiah 65:1ff

The Remnant of Israel

- ◆ (11:1) Did God reject His people? No!
 - ◆ -(11:1) Paul himself is an Israelite, and he believes
 - ◆ -(11:2-4) Elijah's example (1 Kings 19)
 - ◆ -(11:5-6) A remnant exists because of God's grace
- ◆ (11:7-8) The elect in Israel were chosen, others were hardened
 - ◆ -Deuteronomy 29:2ff, Isaiah 29:12, Psalm 69:22ff

The Olive Tree

- ♦ (11:11-16) Did Israel stumble so much as to fall? No!
 - ♦ -Israel's disobedience leads to Gentile inclusion
 - ♦ -Gentile belief is to provoke jealousy among Israel
- ♦ (11:17-24) The cultivated olive tree: Jeremiah 11:16-17
 - ♦ -Pruned, broken branches: unbelieving Israel
 - ♦ -Wild shoots grafted in: believing Gentiles
 - ♦ -Gentiles believers: Do not become arrogant!
 - ♦ -God still has His pruning shears!
 - ♦ -Natural branches (repentant, believing Jews) can be grafted back in

The Mystery of Israel's Salvation

- ♦ (11:25) A partial hardening upon Israel
 - ♦ -Until the fullness of the Gentiles have come in
- ♦ (11:26) "And in this way all Israel will be saved"
 - ♦ -What is the meaning of "all Israel?"
 - ♦ -What is the meaning of "saved?"
- ♦ Paul's message based on the Old Testament
 - ♦ -Isaiah 59:20, Isaiah 27:9, Jeremiah 31:33-34
- ♦ (11:28-32) Behold the mystery!
 - ♦ -God's election is irrevocable: God keeps his promises
 - ♦ -God's election shows his mercy: we do not deserve mercy

A Call to Worship — (11:33-36) Paul's doxology

- ♦ Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! “For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?” “Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?” For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

The Questions

- ◆ Send your questions for next week to the moderator
 - ◆ cmorledge@gmail.com
 - ◆ <http://sharedveracity.net>

Paul's Compassion for Israel?

- ◆ Why is Paul so burdened about his fellow Israelites?

Paul's Appeal to the Old Testament?

- ♦ Why would a knowledge of the Old Testament help us to understand what Paul is trying to say in Romans 9-11?

What is "Election?"

- ◆ What does "election" or God's choosing someone or some group mean? What is the purpose of election: for salvation; i.e. in terms of being right with God eternally, or for service, God has a mission for someone or some group to do; (such as, Israel was elected to bring the Messiah into the world)? What is the scope of election: particular people and/or a group, or is it all about concerning individuals (Romans 9:13, Jacob vs. Esau: nations or individuals)?

Does God Still Have A Plan for Ethnic Israel?

- ◆ In Romans 8:35, Paul asks, "For who shall separate us from the love of Christ?," implying that God keeps his promises to all believers in Christ. However, in Romans 9:4, Paul states that the "promises" belong specifically to the Israelites. Later in Romans 9:8, Paul says that "it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as [Abraham's] offspring." Are there still specific promises given to national, ethnic Israel that are yet to be fulfilled?

Who Is “All Israel”?

- ◆ Who is the “all Israel” when it comes to the “a partial hardening has come upon Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in. And in this way all Israel will be saved.” (Romans 11:25-26)

One or Two Paths to God?

- ◆ Are there two ways of salvation? One path for those who have faith in Jesus and another path for the Jews? Or is there only one way of salvation?

The Dangers of Neglecting Ethnic Israel?

- ♦ Is it possible to ignore ethnic, national Israel to the believer's detriment?

The Remnant?

- ♦ What is Paul's concept of the "remnant?" Who is in this "remnant?"

Explain the Olive Tree?

- ◆ How do the Jews fit into God's plan to graft in the Gentiles?
Explain the olive tree illustration.

Obsession vs. Negative Views of Israel?

- ◆ Is it possible to become too obsessed over national Israel?
- ◆ Has the church done enough to repent of her role in centuries of Jewish antisemitism?

Election and Freewill?

- ◆ How might Paul's understanding of election help me in my life?
- ◆ How does freewill work with respect to having faith in Christ?

The Land of Israel?

- ◆ Does Paul's understanding of Israel in Romans 9-11 give us any clear understanding regarding the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 12:1-3, 15:5-7), regarding the promise of the land to Israel, in the Middle East?

Thank You to Our Panelists!!

- ♦ Submit your questions to your moderator
 - ♦ cmorledge@gmail.com
 - ♦ <http://sharedveracity.net>
- ♦ Be encouraged!!
 - ♦ Study Romans 9-11 on your own!
 - ♦ Talk about it in your small groups!
 - ♦ Keep asking questions!!
 - ♦ Come back next week!!