

Romans 9.1-13

Disappointment, His Appointment

Have you been DISAPPOINTED WITH GOD? Has God LET YOU DOWN?

PRAYERS – Appear Unanswered / Expectations – UNFULFILLED

ANTICIPATED – Healing / Financial Provision / Someone to be SAVED

Been praying for Some Family Members Salvation for 40 years

ROMANS 1-8 MOST Detailed & Wonderful DESCRIPTION OF SALVATION

“The wrath of God is being revealed...against all the godlessness and wickedness of men” Romans 1.18

“every mouth...silenced and the whole world held accountable to God” Romans 3.19

“there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” Romans 8.1

“nothing in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” Romans 8.39

Rest of Letter answers 2 BIG QUESTIONS...

Romans 9 – 11	What about the Jews?
Romans 12 - 16	How shall we then live as God's Redeemed?

APOSTLE PAUL THINKS Something is MISSING! / SomeONE is Missing

v. 3 “my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel”

THEME “the gospel...the power of God...first for the Jew” Romans 1.16

HAVE GOD'S OLD COVENANT PROMISES TO ISRAEL FAILED?

CONCERNS THESE CHAPTERS (9-11) ADDRESS -

1. Personal – what do you think of the Jews Paul?

This was Paul's LETTER OF INTRODUCTION / never been to Rome

Seeks MISSIONARY SUPPORT > will they help him take Gospel to Spain?

ALMOST EVERY CITY Paul visited > was thrown out of Jewish Synagogue

JEWISH Leaders in Thessalonica - "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here" Acts 17.6

SERIES of RIOTS & IMPRISONMENTS > do they want this guy to come?

2. Pastoral – Church in Rome > fellowship of Jews and MOSTLY Gentiles

WAS RIVALRY, MISUNDERSTANDINGS, ACCUSATION in Roman church

“Let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.” Romans 14.13

3. Theological – does the unbelief of Israel mean failure on God’s part?

“It is all very well to affirm that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. But can we believe that if many Jews, who as a people have preceded us in the long biblical plan of salvation, have been abandoned by God and are lost?”

James Boice

4. Political (for 21<sup>st</sup> C, not 1<sup>st</sup> C) – what about Israel & Palestine TODAY?

Concern for our Kinsmen / Confidence in God’s Promises / Comfort in God’s Mercy

### 1. Concern for our Kinsmen

a. Results from Conversion Scales fell from eyes > Insight of the Holy Spirit

SAUL of TARSUS had died with Christ / PAUL the APOSTLE Risen with Jesus

PAUL’S AUTOBIOGRAPHY “from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation” 2 Corinthians 5.16,17

SHOCKING RESULT > RADICAL NEW THINKING >

KING Festus interrupted Paul's defense. "You are out of your mind, Paul!" he shouted. "Your great learning is driving you insane." Acts 26.24

CERTAINTY THREEFOLD AFFIRMATION v. 1 “I speak the truth in Christ-- I am not lying, my conscience confirms it in the Holy Spirit”

## b. Retains His Culture

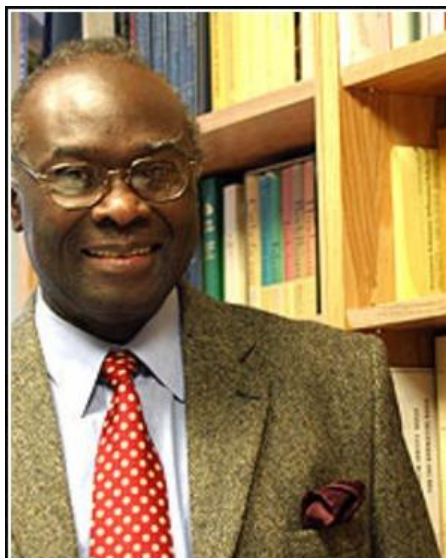
v. 3 my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel

### JOINING CHRISTIAN FAMILY DOES NOT BREAK OUR TIES WITH FAMILY, CULTURE, AND NATIONALITY

PAUL WAS BOTH APOSTLE to GENTILES and a SON OF ISRAEL  
SALVATION BRINGS PERFECTION TO OUR CULTURE / not Destruction  
IF your Christian Faith has made you deny or abandon Culture or Nationality  
THEN you have Misunderstood – God’s Purpose of Redemption for YOU

Africans sensed in their hearts that Jesus did not mock their respect for the sacred or their clamor for an invincible Savior, so they beat their sacred drums for him until the stars skipped and danced in the skies. After that dance the stars weren't little anymore. Christianity helped Africans to become renewed Africans, not remade Europeans.

Lamin Sanneh



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— *Lamin Sanneh* —

AZ QUOTES

God finds us as Sinful Americans, Kazakhs, Malay, Chinese, Africans  
God MAKES US a NEW CREATION in CHRIST / Perfecting our Whole Being  
We'll STAND before Him as REDEEMED TROPHIES from our Fallen Cultures

APOSTLE JOHN saw into HEAVEN – did Not see Homogenized Vanilla

“and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count,  
(DISTINCTLY IDENTIFIABLE) from every nation, tribe, people and language,  
standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb” Revelation 7.9

### c. Reacts with Compassion

JESUS WARNS “a man's enemies will be the members of his own household.”  
Matt 10.36

BUT WHEN Gadarene DEMONIAK wanted to leave his homeland Jesus said

"Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you."  
Mark 5.19

PAUL FOLLOWED THIS PRINCIPLE > 1st Preaching Point Jewish Synagogue  
TO Jews in PISIDIAN ANTIOCH "We had to speak the word of God to you  
first.” Acts 13.46

“5 times I received from the Jews the 40 lashes minus one. 3 times I was beaten  
with rods, once I was stoned...in danger from my own countrymen”  
2 Corinthians 11.24

v. 2 “I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish  
that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers”

“If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God; if we are in our right mind, it  
is for you. For Christ's love compels us” 2 Corinthians 5.13-14

GOD PLACED IN HIM “A spark from the fire of Christ’s substitutionary love”

LIKE MOSES WHO ASKED GOD TO DESTROY HIM > Spare Israelites who  
made the Golden Calf at Foot of Mt. Sinai > Paul offers himself on their behalf

“It seems incredible that a man would desire to be damned, in order that the  
damned might be saved” Martin Luther

IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO ABANDON OUR HOSTILE FAMILIES

BUT MAY THE LOVE OF CHRIST COMPELL US to be as Christ to Them

Jesus WEPT over the Jerusalem which CRUCIFIED HIM

#### d. Rejoices in God's Kindness

POINTS Family to What God has Done for Them

FOR THE JEWS > THERE WAS MUCH FOR PAUL TO POINT TO vs. 4,5

“Theirs is the adoption as sons” > God said “Israel is my firstborn son”

“theirs the divine glory” > SHEKINAH Visible Splendor of God

“the covenants” > Abraham, Moses, David, New Covenant in Messiah

“the receiving of the law” Written by very Finger of God on Tablets of Stone

“the temple worship” Priesthood, Sacrifices PICTURE of God's Holy Justice

“the promises” GOD'S MERCY WILL SOMEDAY SATISFY HIS JUSTICE

Seed of the Woman would one day crush the serpent's head

Scepter of God's Rule would never leave the tribe of Judah

Prophet Greater than Moses would come

God's King would forever sit on David's throne

The Nations will stream to the Mountain of the Lord

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ.”

2 Corinthians 1.21

“Theirs are the patriarchs” > FATHERS of Faith > Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

ALL THESE PICTURES AND PROMISES FIND FULFILLMENT IN CHRIST

“from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.”

PAUL'S HEART Broken BY ISRAEL'S BLINDNESS – missed all God's Signs

ALL THEIR HISTORY POINTED TO THE COMING OF THEIR MESSIAH

## GREAT ADVANTAGES ARE NO GUARANTEE OF SALVATION

“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.” John 1.11

WE NEED THE GIVER, NOT JUST HIS GIFTS

THIS MAN from JUDAH’S TRIBE > is Nothing Less than God in Human Flesh

PREACHER OF PREDESTINATION / PICTURE OF PASSION

For Paul – God’s Sovereignty is NOT a COLD-HEARTED DOCTRINE

DO YOU ANGUISH OVER OTHERS? DO YOU LOVE YOUR ENEMIES?

MEMBERS of your OWN FAMILY? THOSE WHO ARE GREAT SINNERS?

“Do you sorrow for those who do not know Jesus Christ and who are therefore perishing without him? I am afraid that most of us do not. Why is that? It is because we do not believe that they are perishing? Because we do not believe the gospel? Probably it is because we are not very much like Jesus Christ, do not spend much time with him, and do not think of spiritual things much at all”

James Boice

## 2. Confidence in God’s Promises

Seeing Israel’s Rejection of Jesus their Messiah > Appears God’s Word FAILED

a. God has a Plan > difficult doctrines, perhaps most difficult chapters of Bible

v. 6 “It is not as though God's word had failed” > lit. God’s Word HAS FALLEN

v. 11 God's purpose in election might stand: i.e. WORD HAS NOT FALLEN

SOME BELIEVE GOD HAS NO RIGHT TO HAVE A PLAN

ESPECIALLY IF HIS PLAN CONFLICTS WITH THEIR OWN PLANS

IF WE THINK GOD EXERCISES ANY CONTROL OVER MAN & HISTORY

THEN WE MUST COME TO TERMS WITH A GOD WHO HAS A PLAN

Jesus came to earth about 2000 years ago / why not 3000?

Jesus came as a Son of Israel / why not China? There are more Chinese?

Jesus chose 12 apostles / why only 12, there were more faithful men in Israel?

All of them were Men / why where there not 6 men, 6 women?

Jesus sent the Church around the Mediterranean World / why not Pacific Islands?

WE CANNOT ESCAPE GOD'S PLAN, HIS ELECTION, SOVEREIGNTY

## b. God has a People

v. 6 "For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel"

"A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly" Romans 2.28

JESUS > PARABLE of Weeds & Wheat > Grow LOOK Same > Until FRUIT

EXAMPLE FROM WITHIN FAMILY OF ABRAHAM – sons and grandsons

God chose Isaac not Ishmael / God loved Jacob not Esau

v. 8 it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring.

"To all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God-- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." John 1.12,13

SHOCKING Words v. 13 "Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

MOST COMMENTATORS TRY TO EXPLAIN THEM AWAY

NO MATTER HOW WE TONE IT DOWN > Explain this as Hebrew Idiom

FACT REMAINS > God CHOSE Jacob (Cheater and Thief) REJECTED ESAU

ESAU by Ancestry > Descendant of Abraham

By Birthright > Firstborn, should have received the father's blessing

By Religious Symbolism > Circumcised

By Cultural Position > Covenant Member

By Societal Status > Rich and Powerful

BUT “when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears.” Hebrews 12.17

WHAT IS A REAL CHRISTIAN? – Believers first called Christians in Antioch  
Believed in Christ – Followed Christ – Witnessed to Christ – Grew by Word of X

c. God’s Plan is Sovereign v. 12 “not by works but by him who calls”

v. 11 “before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad”

“the only thing we contribute to God’s plan of salvation, is the sin to make it necessary”  
Eric Alexander

v. 16 “It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy.”

Vs. TEACHES COMPLETE EXCLUSION of any HUMAN ROLE in Salvation

“We love because he first loved us.”

1 John 4.19

DOCTRINE OF JESUS “No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him....All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away....No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” Matthew 11.27, John 6.37,44

“If we were responsible for our own salvation, either in whole or in part, we would be justified in singing our own praises and blowing our own trumpet in heaven. But such a thing is inconceivable. God’s redeemed people will spend eternity worshipping him, humbling themselves before him in grateful adoration, ascribing their salvation to him and to the Lamb, and acknowledging that he alone is worthy to receive all praise, honor and glory. Why? Because our salvation is due entirely to his grace, will, initiative, wisdom, and power.”

John Stott

“Not to us, O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory”

Psalm 115.1

AS SOON AS WE THINK GOD OWES US SOMETHING,

OR THAT HE MUST DO SOMETHING >> WE ROB HIM OF HIS GLORY



### 3. Comfort in God's Mercy

TEACHING SHOULD MAKE US GLORIFY AND PRAISE GOD  
BUT INSTEAD MANY QUESTION AND CURSE HIM

PAUL HEARD THIS v.14 "What then shall we say? Is God unjust?"

PAUL SHOUTS THE STRONGEST DENIAL POSSIBLE - Not at all!"

IF THERE WERE INJUSTICE IN GOD, UNIVERSE WOULD FLY APART

"There are different ways of answering God back. There is the answering back of faith, as when Job or Jeremiah calls out for an account of God's mysterious ways with him. Even the Christ on the cross could cry, 'why hast thou forsaken me?' But when the man or woman of faith cries out like this, it is from a fundamental conviction that God is all-righteous as well as all powerful. There is, on the other hand, the answering back of unbelief and disobedience, when an attempt is made to put God in the (courtroom) dock and sit in judgment on him." F.F. Bruce

QUESTION ASKed about JUDGMENT / PAUL'S ANSWER is about MERCY

GOD GIVES MERCY AND NOT JUDGMENT

a. Justice demands what we Deserve > Romans > Shows what we Deserve

"There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." Romans 3.10-12

YOU DON'T WANT TO GO THERE!

You CAN ASK God for ANYTHING – but DARE NOT Ask Him for JUSTICE

If God gave us what we DESERVE – ALL of Us would be in HELL

b. If Anyone will be Saved it will be by Mercy TOTALLY UNDESERVED

DESERVING is based on what we have done / Mercy not given to DESERVING

Has NOTHING to do with Us / EVERYTHING to do with the GIVER

v. 18 "God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy

MERCY GRANTS HEAVEN TO THOSE WHO DESERVE HELL

Romans: Basis of Mercy X DIED our DEATH/ GOD'S JUSTICE SATISFIED

“This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”  
Romans 3. 22

c. If God saved based on something in us – faith, family life, works – it would be Unjust, because not all people have the same opportunities

Broken Homes / Poverty / Mental & Physical Limitations / Safe Environment

SOME PEOPLE HAVE BETTER CHANCES OF SUCCESS IN LIFE

PEOPLE RAISED in CHURCH > much better chance to Hear & Believe Gospel

SO ELECTION IS THE ONLY THING THAT IS JUST

STARTS with ALL PEOPLE AT SAME LEVEL > All Deserve God's Judgment

d. Shouldn't God show mercy to everyone? Hey, you can't go there!

Look where you are when you ask question > BACK IN REALM OF JUSTICE  
SHOULD = ought, must, it is necessary – IMPLIES OBLIGATION = JUSTICE

WE have NO CLAIM ON GOD / HE IS UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO SAVE

e. Why doesn't God show mercy to everyone? You CAN Go There!

HUMBLE QUESTION for Knowledge > Not Belligerent Demand

Question I've been asking every since God saved me from a Non-Xtian family?

WHY ME? I am not the smartest, or nicest, or easiest to get along with, why me?

MYSTERY of HIS WILL > His Glory, His Infinite Wisdom, Righteous Purpose

“Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no

one knows the Father except the Son & those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”  
Matthew 11.25

MOSES SAID “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may follow all the words of this law.”  
Deuteronomy 29.29

ISAIAH SAID "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55.8,9

PAUL SAID Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor? Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?" For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. Romans 11.33-36

HEAVEN WILL LAST FOREVER > Always learn more of God & His Purposes  
AND YET WE WILL NEVER LEARN IT ALL

HARD TEACHINGS – many studies of Romans stop Ch. 8, or jump to Ch. 12!  
BUT GOD HAS USED THESE HARD TEACHINGS TO BRING REVIVAL

“Evangelism is the exposition of Scripture. God will do the regenerating”  
Gordon Clark

Disappointment, His Appointment  
Change one letter and I see  
That the thwarting of my purpose  
Is God’s better plan for me

His appointment must be blessing  
Though it may come in disguise  
For the end from the beginning  
Open to God’s Wisdom lies

Romans 9 <sup>1</sup>I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— <sup>2</sup>I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. <sup>3</sup>For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, <sup>4</sup>the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. <sup>5</sup>Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.

<sup>6</sup>It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. <sup>7</sup>Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, "It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned." <sup>8</sup>In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring. <sup>9</sup>For this was how the promise was stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

<sup>10</sup>Not only that, but Rebekah's children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. <sup>11</sup>Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God's purpose in election might stand: <sup>12</sup>not by works but by him who calls—she was told, "The older will serve the younger." <sup>13</sup>Just as it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."