

God, Israel, the Messiah, & The Gospel

Romans 9:1-5

New LIFE Fellowship

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Romans 9:1-5

I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, (2) that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. (3) For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, (4) who are Israelites, to whom pertain the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises; (5) of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, **Christ came, who is over all, the eternally blessed God.** Amen.

1. Compassion: The Motivation for the Gospel ...

Prayer, Sacrifice, from the Heart ... Paul's broken heart for his family members and fellow countrymen (his fellows Israelis ...) illustrates God's Heart for the lost, even among Israel Paul the Apostle, Jesus Christ (God's Heart)

Matthew 9:35-38

(35) Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (36) But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. (37) Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. (38) Therefore pray the LORD of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

2. The Bible, Israel, the Messiah ...

From cover to cover (**Romans 3:1-2**) the Bible is of Human, Israeli Authorship, Inspired and Directed by the God of Israel – God moved men, long ago ... to write the Bible (**2 Peter 1:16-21; Deuteronomy 18:15-22; John 14 – 16 [Jesus' own disciples] ... all Israelis**)

God Chose Israel ... His ultimate purpose was to bring in the Messiah, the Savior of the world

3. God is Sovereign - it is up to God for His choosing ... Israel is CENTRAL to God's Plan of Redemption for all nations

a. **Israel was chosen for a purpose** (not chosen to go to heaven ...) →
to bring in the Messiah

These promises from Genesis 12:3; 22:16-18; 24:60; 26:3-5; 27:27-29; 28:3-4; 28:13-15 explain God's intent and purpose to use Israel as His Blessing to all the nations

Then, reading through Genesis 12 thru to the end of Malachi ... one can read all the promises God has for Israel, His Purposes, Covenants, etc. Israel is CENTRAL

John 4:22 (Jesus said to the 'woman at the well'): **You** (i.e.: the Samaritans/the world) **worship what you do not know; we** (i.e. "the Jews" / Israel) **know whom we worship, because salvation is of the Jews.** → **Salvation of God comes to the Gentile nations through Israel. That is God's Choosing ... His Sovereignty – it is His Universe.**

The **Messiah, the Savior of the World** was promised to come through Israel ...

See the Amazing Prophecies of the Messiah in the Old Testament

Here is an excellent website that enumerates and explains the top

45 clear Messianic Prophecies in the Old Testament:

<http://www.christiananswers.net/dictionary/messianicprophecies.html>

Jesus Christ, of the “seed of David” → Romans 1:3; 2 Timothy 2:8; Revelation 5:5; 22:16

b. God's Choosing is quite a bit more complicated than we might imagine

example - Tyre, Sidon, Sodom, Gomorrah

God has explained that He uses His Foreknowledge in His choosing

Romans 8:29-30 ... those whom He foreknew

1 Peter 1:1-2 → “chosen according to His foreknowledge” “elect according to His foreknowledge” ...

With these two passages in mind we can conclude that God is **NOT** choosing based upon throwing a dart to the wall with His eyes closed ... it is extremely more complicated than we can even imagine, in fact, we cannot even comprehend it, since we are finite and bound within the confines of “time” and with limited knowledge ... whereas God is outside of time and has all knowledge of everything – past present and future Jesus even mentioned that God knew what **MIGHT Happen IF** certain conditions were different for some of the ancient peoples (this is an example of God’s Sovereignty as well)

God’s Intent is to bring lost sinners to Repentance ... remember this when you read **Matthew 11:20-24**:

(20) Then Jesus began to rebuke the cities in which most of His mighty works had been done, **BECAUSE THEY DID NOT REPENT**: (21) “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! **BECAUSE if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have REPENTED long ago in sackcloth and ashes.** (22) But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. (23) And you, Capernaum, who is exalted to heaven, you will be brought down to Hades; **BECAUSE if the mighty works which were done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.** 24 But I say to you that it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment than for you.”

Think of Jonah being sent to Ninevah ... the heart of the Assyrian Empire ... at the time Israel’s mortal enemies ... God is Sovereign ... why did He not do the same for Tyre and Sidon, Sodom and Gomorrah? Good Question.

Understand this Passage (Matthew 11:20-24) regarding God’s Sovereignty helps us to get a glimpse (peaking behind the veil) regarding this subject. It extends to even what **MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED. The “IF”s in life.** God knows what might have happened to Tyre and Sidon, to Sodom and Gomorrah ... if God did the kind of miracles that Jesus did during His earthly ministry in Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. God’s Sovereignty even covers the **“WHAT IF”s** in life, in history and in the future. He knows all that IS, WAS, and WILL BE ... and the **“WHAT IF”s** that actually never happened and that never will happen. All scenarios of all possibilities God knows about, way deeper than we could even imagine.

He knows all the possibilities and has CHOSEN what He has Chosen ... He has chosen His Methods, His Categories, His Timing, His Ways of Doing things, His ways of relating to various people groups and individuals, His Message (the Gospel of Christ), His Church to spread that message, etc. He has chosen all of these because He is God, it is His Universe.

His Intent is always that Sinners might be Saved (Luke 19:10), but it will always be according this “His Rules” and His Ways (Isaiah 55:8-9; 59:1-3; Ezek. 14:6; 18:30-32).

c. Understanding **The Nuances** of His Choosing/Election, of His Sovereignty – the complexity and the possible misunderstanding ...

This example – something to ponder (did God create wicked people for a purpose?):

Proverbs 16:4 - The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil. (day of evil → the day of judgment of evil / doom)

So, does this passage say that God created wicked people, so that He can punish them? What does this passage mean? This will help us understand God's Choosing, His Election, His Sovereignty correctly, instead of reading into passages, that which is not there.

So, does this mean that God created certain sets of people, then chose to punish them? Does it mean that God created "the day of Judgment", "the day of evil", "the day of trouble" ... Judgment Day for these people who have **no choice** but to be evil? Is that what this passage means? If so, then when God said about His creation in Genesis 1:31 – "it is all VERY GOOD" then that would mean that "evil" and "wicked" would be deemed as "VERY GOOD" ... yet that would contradict the rest of God's Holy Word regarding this subject. Do I interpret all the other passages in the Bible related to the subject of "evil" and God's Punishment of the wicked based upon this one verse? **Of course, not.** So, what is God saying here?

That the Category of Wicked, that **Category relates to the Day of Judgment.**

God knows everything, but He did **not** Create anything originally as something that is Wicked or Evil. God **never created** anything wicked or evil. He only created things, persons, beings as good, very good. If a being has freedom of choice within their respective contexts, they, themselves are responsible for becoming evil, on their own. **No one can blame God for their sinfulness**, correct? This understanding **is consistent** with all the other passages in Holy Scripture that address this subject. **God OPPOSES the PROUD, but Gives Grace to the Humble, always.**

So, we know, that in **Matthew 25:41 God created the Lake of Fire, originally for the Devil and His Fallen Angels.** He did not create the Lake of Fire, originally, for sinful humans. We know this, based upon this passage.

Question: Did God, originally, create the Lake of Fire **BEFORE** Satan and His Angels fell into sin and rebelled ... or **AFTER** they fell into sinful rebellion? That's a good question isn't it? What does your Holy Spirit empowered, Biblical "common sense" tell you? Of course, God's Punishment is **ALWAYS AFTER** the Crime. **That is His chosen, consistent, way of doing things, always.** He doesn't punish people before they sin, but **always afterward.** In fact, many times with He gave clear warning before they sinned. Thus, He created the Lake of Fire **AFTER** Satan and His angels rebelled. When did that happen? That's for another sermon.

Therefore, regarding the Wicked being Created for the Day of Judgment ... we must look in context so that we can understand that the Day of Judgment is **BECAUSE** of the Wicked ... **not the other way around. God created everything for its purpose.** He created the **Category** called "**Evil**" and/or "**Wicked**" and then He Created the **Time and Place of that Judgment for Evil**, accordingly. If we don't see scripture and interpret it correctly, we will end up twisting Scripture and not be consistent with the rest of Scripture regarding various subject and topics we are studying, etc. Again, Holy Spirit Empowered, Biblical, common sense interpretation is required (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-4:4)

So, we must bring to the passage we are studying, here, the rest of Scripture's weight regarding these subjects and topics we are studying. We cannot re-interpret the rest of Scripture based upon what we are reading in Romans chapters 9 thru 10. When Paul mentions certain Old Testament people, events, places, etc... he is using them to make a point about

God's Sovereignty ... but to get the "full point", it is **best** to pause, and go back and re-read those passages, all of them, in their respective contexts to get the overall "gist" of what is being referenced. If we don't do that, some preachers that we may have heard, their voices may be stronger in our ears than what God's Word actually is saying. **What is God actually teaching here? Our AIM is CORRECT INTERPRETATION AND APPLICATION OF SCRIPTURE (2 Timothy 2:15)**

d. **God STILL chooses to use the Gospel to save lost sinners.**

He has Chosen / Elected to use redeemed sinners (saints) to spread the Gospel to the lost. He has Chosen / Elected to use **this method** until the New Heavens and the New Earth come in . . . Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24: 1 Cor. 1:17,27-28; 9:12-23; 15:1-5; 2 Cor. 5:14-22; Romans 1:16-17; 10:14-21; Galatians 1:6-9; 2:2; Ephesians 1:13-14; Revelation 14:6

Question: who are those, whom He has clearly explained to us that will be His recipients of His Grace? (Grace in this case → Salvation, Forever Forgiveness of Sins, Eternal Life in Christ, etc.)

Look at **James 4:6 & 1 Peter 5:5** →

"God OPPOSES the proud but GIVES GRACE to the HUMBLE."

God has not changed His views or His Methods ...

He has Sovereignly ELECTED / CHOSEN ... **to Give His Grace to the Humble.**

Those who Receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior received Him in **Humility.**

The **Proud** person **can NEVER and will NEVER** receive Christ as Savior and LORD.

James 4:6 & 1 Peter 5:5 teach a consistent principle of how God deals with lost sinners from Genesis through Revelation: **an unchanged, immutable principle.**

In order for a lost sinner to come to be Born Again in Christ, he/she must REPENT of his/her sins (Repentance is heart, mind, soul turning away from sin and turning to God) ...

Repentance is humility. A person must **admit** that he/she is wrong about sin, **wrong about** who God is, wrong about the Bible, wrong about one's need for salvation, etc.

Yes, this is a Work of God, to be sure, by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings this conviction of the Truth of God's Word about sin, salvation, God, Jesus Christ, etc. To be sure this is God doing His work on lost sinners. Also, the sinner must respond in humility. The sinner is **NOT** some robot. He/she must **decide** to repent to respond to God's convicting power. This is not some human trying to convince another human, of course.

It is so deeply complex, it is hard to explain, but it is nonetheless true and brings a lost sinner to **humility.** The **Humble** are the ones that God said He would give His Grace to.

LINK: <http://www.openbible.info/labs/cross-references/search?q=James+4%3A6>

This was an introduction to our study of Romans 9 thru 11. My hopes are that this will help us Correctly Study these, sometimes, controversial subjects and topics that are found here.

God's Mercy, Grace, Love, Salvation is still offered, freely, potentially, to every human being since Christ died on the cross and was raised from the dead. God **commands all humans** to Repent and Believe: **Acts 17:30-31** → To Repent and To Believe in Jesus Christ for their salvation, personally, is the only way to Salvation. **That has never changed and will never change.** God has chosen / elected to use the Gospel to save sinners ... that will never change
1 Timothy 2:1-4 → **"... God our Savior, who desires all humans to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth ..."**

It is our duty to spread that Gospel, because God has commanded us to do so. Again, that has not changed. God's Sovereignty never negates our trusting-obedience in Christ with the Gospel of Christ. God saves, always, by the Gospel of Christ ... never any other way.