

STUDYING THE BOOK OF ROMANS
IN SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Lesson 19 - God's Sovereign Choice - [Romans 9:1-33](#)

Read the following verses in the Last Days Bible or a translation of your choice. Then discuss the questions that follow. Questions should be studied by each individual before your discussion group meets.

Materials may be copied and used for Bible study purposes. Not to be sold.

God's Choice of Israel

9 As a Christian, I'm telling you the truth. I am not lying. The Holy Spirit also bears witness in my conscience that this is so, as I tell you:

2 My heart is broken and I am in great and continual sorrow for my people, for those related to me by flesh and blood.

3 I've even wished that it were possible that I myself could be doomed and separated from Christ for the sake of my brothers and sisters.

4 I'm speaking of the people of Israel. God adopted them as His people, and then revealed His glory to them in so many ways. He gave them His Law, and came very close to them in their Temple worship. He also made them many promises.

5 The Jews of today are the descendants of the great fathers of the faith, and it is through them that Christ came and received His earthly body of flesh. May God, who rules over all, be praised forever! Yes, so may it indeed ever be.

6 However, I'm not saying that God hasn't kept His promises to Abraham, because not all the people of Israel are the true Israel.

7 Nor are all the descendants of Abraham children of God. Because God's promise was,

"The children I promised you will come through Isaac." (***Gen. 21:12***)

8 What I'm saying is: It's not the descendants of Abraham by natural birth who are the children of God. But it's Abraham's descendants through the promise God made to him,* who are regarded by God as Abraham's true descendants.

Acts 9:8 – "Promise God made to him.*" The promised son – Isaac.

9 For this is what God promised:

"At the appointed time for life to be conceived, I will return and Sarah will have a son." (***Gen. 18:10,14***)

10 And not only that, but years later Rebecca also conceived *and had twins* by our forefather Isaac.

11 But even before the twins were born, before they had done anything good or bad, so that God's plan would work out as He had decided, and through whom He chose, and not because of what anyone had done,

12 God told Rebecca,

“The older one will serve the younger.” (*Gen. 25:23*)

13 That's why the Scripture records that God said,

“I have loved Jacob, but I have rejected Esau.” (*Mal. 1:2-3*)

14 What shall we conclude then? Was this action by God unfair? Certainly not!

15 Because God told Moses,

“I will be merciful to whomever I wish. If I wish to show kindness to someone, I will.” (*Ex. 33:19*)

16 This shows that it was not we who had intense desire and put forth great effort to be saved, but it was God, who continually shows how merciful He is.

17 For instance, in the Scriptures it's recorded that God said to Pharaoh, King of Egypt,

“The reason I raised you up as King of Egypt was that I might display My power in My dealings with you, and so that as a result, I might be praised throughout the whole earth.” (*Ex. 9:16*)

18 So God shows mercy to anyone He wishes; and according to His desire, He further hardens the stubborn hearts of others.

God's Anger and Mercy

19 So you will very likely ask me, “Well, why does He still find fault then? Because who can resist God Almighty?”

20 And just who are you, that you would dare to challenge God's judgment? What created thing would ever say to its creator, “Why did you make me like this?”

21 Doesn't a potter have the right to make a distinctive bowl and a common one from the same lump of clay?

22 God really wanted to show how angry He was and reveal how powerfully He could destroy these rebels who were fit only to be destroyed. But instead He patiently put up with them.

23 He did this in order to reveal the immeasurable greatness of His kindness in showing mercy to those He had earlier created to share His glory.

24 This includes us, whom He has also called—not only if you are a Jew, but also if you're not.

25 As God says in the book of Hosea:

“I will call them My people even though they were not my people. And the one whom I did not love, I will now call ‘The one I love.’” (*Hos. 2:23*)

²⁶And the time will come when in the very place where people were told, “You are not my people, the people there will be called Children of the living God.” (*Hos. 1:10*)

²⁷Isaiah also cried out concerning Israel:

“Even if the people of Israel are as many as the grains of sand of the sea, still, only a few of them will be saved.

²⁸The Lord will finish His work and cut it short in righteous judgment, because He will do a quick work upon the earth.” (*Isa. 10:22-23*)

²⁹Before that Isaiah had said:

“Unless the Lord of vast multitudes had left at least a few of us, we would have ended up as utterly destroyed as the people of Sodom and Gomorrah.” (*Isa. 1:9*)

Israel and the Great News

³⁰What does all this mean? Just this—that the Gentiles, who were not trying to make peace with God, obtained right standing with Him just the same, a right standing which they obtained by faith.

³¹But Israel, while working to obtain right standing with God by obeying the Law of Moses, did not receive God’s approval.

³²Why not? Because they were not seeking it by faith, but by what they did in obedience to the Law. That’s the stumbling stone they stumbled over.

³³As God says in Scripture:

“Look, I am placing a Stone in Zion that will cause many to stumble. It is a Rock that will cause violent opposition. But no one who is truly believing in Him will be ashamed of Him.” (*Isa. 8:14; 28:16*)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Lesson 19 - God's Sovereign Choice - [Romans 9:1-33](#)

216. What strong emotion was Paul feeling? ([9:2](#))

217. What situation made Paul feel sad and anguished? ([9:2-3](#))

218. How far was Paul willing to go for his fellow Jews? ([9:3](#))

219. What gifts and opportunities had God given to the Jewish people? ([9:4-5](#))

220. How did Paul explain the difference between Jews who believe and Jews who do not believe? ([9:6-8](#))

221. Whom did God bless as the parents of the nation of Israel? ([9:7-9](#))
222. What did Paul say to people who claim to be children of God merely because they are descendants of Abraham? ([9:8-9](#))
223. Who were the children of Isaac and Rebekah? ([9:10-13](#))
224. What decision did God make about Jacob and Esau before they were born? ([9:12-13](#))
225. How did Paul defend the accusation that God is unjust in His treatment of people? ([9:14-15](#))
226. What determines how God bestows favor on people? ([9:16](#))
227. What examples from history did Paul use to demonstrate God's choice of blessing? ([9:17-18](#))
228. What right do we have to question God? ([9:19-21](#))
229. Why does God show great patience with us even though we deserve His wrath? ([9:22-24](#))
230. What did the prophets Isaiah and Hosea tell us about God's patience and justice? ([9:25-29](#))
231. By what means have the Gentiles (non-Jews) obtained righteousness? ([9:30](#))
232. What kept Israel from obtaining righteousness? ([9:31-32](#))
233. Over what has Israel stumbled? ([9:33](#))
234. How could a person come from a very religious background and still not have a personal faith in God?