

Journeying Through the Book of Romans

Season 6: Is God Truly Fair?

Rabbi Schneider-Shaliach-a Jewish Messenger of Jesus. Sent one!



Scripture

- **Romans 9:1-15**

I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit, that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accused, separated from Christ for the sake of my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the glory and the covenants and the giving of the Law and the temple service and the promises; whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel; nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "through Isaac your descendants will be named." That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants. For this is the word of promise: "At this time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son." And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

Other Scriptures

- John 1:11
- Deuteronomy 7:6; 9:5
- Romans 9:11

Main Points

1. God is sovereign.
2. God in His mercy elected to save a remnant.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was Paul lamenting? Did this reflect God's own feelings? How do you know?
2. Had the Word of God failed to accomplish the plan of God in Jesus' coming?
3. How does Paul explain this rejection of Jesus by particular Jewish people of their day?
4. What examples in Israel's history does Paul cite as God's sovereign choice?
5. Why is God not unfair in these choices? Does fairness have any relevance in reference to God?
6. God's purposes (and not man's goodness) are the basis of His choice—what does this prompt in your heart? Reread this passage and talk to the Father about this.
7. In your own words write a statement about the sovereignty of God in the election of individuals for His Kingdom.