

## AN OVERVIEW OF ROMANS 9 - 10 – 11

### *God Predestined the Gentiles, Not Only the Jews*

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In the book of Romans, Paul defends the conditional election of the gentiles (which was of great controversy in the Jewish world) and attacked the false notion of the unconditional election of the Israelites.

**- First** Paul demonstrated God's Sovereignty in selecting nations and using them as He see's fit. Paul gives example of God choosing Jacob (Israel), Esau (Edom) and Pharaoh (Egypt).

The first two (Jacob, Esau) had no relation to God's wrath or mercy because they were not chosen for being good or rejected for being bad. The Jews however entertained the thought that they were the "chosen" people because of their righteousness. However, God chose Jacob, to bless his seed, before Jacob did anything good or bad. (Romans 9:11)

God choosing one over the other was choosing to make the great chosen nation out of the one, rather than the other. Something God almost did with Moses (Ex 32:9) but Moses changed His mind. (Ex 32:14)

The last one (Pharaoh, Egypt) properly received God's wrath, in accordance with Pharaohs own evil freewill, as the scriptures say that He hardened Himself (Ex 8:15, Ex 8:32), (God hardened Pharaohs proud heart by bringing threatening and judgment, which resulted in Pharaoh becoming more stubborn and proud) and the Egyptians were idolaters who enslaved the Israelites. And God did this to bring about a purpose which God saw fit, to use a voluntarily sinful person, and a voluntarily sinful nation, to get good - His Glory and power revealed to the nations.

But Jacob was not chosen to unconditional salvation, rather God choose to bless His seed and make out of Him the "chosen people". Esau was not reprobated to unconditional condemnation; his seed was simply not chosen to be the great nation. And Pharaoh was not unconditionally reprobated to eternal condemnation. He was simply a willingly sinful person that God choose to show His power and greatness through.

**- Then** Paul explains how the Jews cannot find fault with God for using nations as He sees fit, (because God always acts in accordance with His benevolence and intelligence, God not ever acting arbitrarily even if our finite minds do not understand him, we can trust His character to always do what is wise and good in His eyes). And so the Jews cannot find fault with God for having a pre - destiny - (for) nations, like the nation of the gentiles.

Something which the Jews in Paul's day were prone to argue against since they thought they were the "chosen" people.

**- Then** Paul explains how God Sovereignty "cut off" the chosen people Israel because they failed to meet the conditions of their predestination, because they "believed not". They were not unconditionally eternally secure as they imagined, and Paul even warned the chosen gentiles to "fear" "lest you too be cut off"

**- Then** Paul showed how God has grafted in the Gentiles, just as He always predetermined to do, because He always had a pre-determined/destiny - (for) nations [pre-destiny-nations], even a predetermined plan for the Gentiles.

Hence, God told Abraham "In they seed shall ALL NATIONS be blessed" (Gen 22:18, 26:4) and God spoke by Isaiah saying the Jews were chosen to be "a light unto the Gentiles" (Isaiah 42:6).

### **VERY SIMPLY:**

Paul answered the Jews, how they cannot find fault with God for hardening (cutting off) Israel while showing mercy (grafting in) the gentiles. There is no fault in the justice of God for cutting off the unbelieving, and grafting in those with repentant faith. (Rom 9:30-32)

And Paul answered the misconceptions that the Jews had, that they were the chosen people because of their own goodness, rather than because of God's mercy, and that they were unconditionally eternally secure because they were the elect, "chosen" people.

And so Paul showed how they were not chosen for their goodness, nor eternally secure because they were chosen, but that they were "cut off" "because of unbelief" because they failed to meet the terms of their conditional election.

Predestination is God's pre-destiny (for) - nations, which predetermined plan was to offer salvation to all nations that repent and believe that God would ultimately choose to save those individuals who voluntarily repent of their sins and put their faith in the forgiving grace of God.