

## Romans Session 134

### God's Personal Connections With Unbelieving Israel 2

*Romans 9:4-5 (NASB)*

<sup>4</sup> *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,*

<sup>5</sup> *whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever.*

*Amen.*

In these two verses the apostle sets forth nine marvelous privileges that belong to Israel, graciously bestowed on them by a loving God.

1. **They are privileged simply to be Israelites, descendants of Abraham through Isaac and then through Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel.**
2. **It is the Israelites to whom belongs the adoption as sons. Beyond their patriarchal ancestry, Jews are privileged to have adoption as God's sons.**
3. **God blessed Israel by revealing to them His own presence in the Shekinah glory. In that unique and inexplicable way. God dwelled in the midst of Israel, His people.**
4. **Israel was privileged to have been given the covenants. Abrahams covenant, Moses covenants, David's eternal covenant of a kingdom. Etc**
5. **Israel was privileged by the giving of the law of God to them through Moses.**
6. **Israel was uniquely blessed by being entrusted with the temple service, through which she worshiped and dealt with sin before the Lord.**
7. **Israel was given the promises of God in a distinct and unique way.**
8. **It was from Israel that God raised up the fathers, beginning with the first great patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel. It was through these men that the foundation was laid for all the blessings to come.**
9. **Israel was privileged to provide the lineage of Christ according to the flesh. Christ was not accidently born a Jew, but was preordained to be a human descendant of Abraham and of David.**

Now having outlined these nine privileges we want to begin to take them one at a time and fully explore their meaning.

**First, they were privileged to be Israelites, descendants of Abraham, through Isaac, and then Jacob/Israel**

*Genesis 32:28 (NASB)*

<sup>28</sup> *He said, "Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed."*

Throughout history, Israelites (or Jews, as they came to be called after the exile in Babylon) have distinguished themselves in virtually every field of human endeavor, in science, the arts, music, business, education, political leadership, and countless other areas.

They have always been a noble people and have produced a disproportionate share of the world's geniuses.

When God prepared His special earthly vineyard, it is said,

*Isaiah 5:1-2a (NASB)*

<sup>1</sup> *Let me sing now for my well-beloved A song of my beloved concerning His vineyard. My well-beloved had a vineyard on a fertile hill.*

*<sup>2</sup> He dug it all around, removed its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. And He built a tower in the middle of it And also hewed out a wine vat in it; Then He expected it to produce good grapes,*

What a privilege they had as a people, God's Chosen people.

**Second, it is Israelites to whom belongs the adoptions as sons.**

Beyond their patriarchal ancestry, Jews are privileged to have **adoption as God's sons**.

God commanded Moses to say to Pharaoh;

*Exodus 4:22b (NASB)*

*<sup>22</sup> "Thus says the LORD, "Israel is My son, My firstborn.*

Through Hosea, the Lord declared that;

*Hosea 11:1 (NASB)*

*<sup>1</sup> When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.*

At the covenant at Sinai, when the law was given through Moses, God declared to Israel,

*Exodus 19:6a (NASB)*

*<sup>6</sup> and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'*

Israel was separated out to be His unique and righteous witness to the rest of the world.

It is clear from the context of those verses, as well as from countless other parts of scripture, that the nation of Israel was, in some respect, God's child.

Salvation has always been on an individual basis.

One person cannot be saved by another's faith.

As Paul makes clear a few verses later,

*Romans 9:6b (NASB)*

*<sup>6</sup> For they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel;*

Yet, while not in the sense of salvations, it was as a nation that God sovereignly bestowed on Israel His special calling, covenant, blessing, and protection.

The Old Testament does not refer to God as the Father of individual Jews in the way the New Testament does of God as Father of individual Christians, but as the Father of Israel.

It was for that reason, among others, that the Jewish leaders were so incensed when Jesus referred to God in a personal relationship as His Father.

Israel poorly fulfilled that calling, wasting its privilege.

Through Isaiah the Lord lamented,

**Isaiah 46:3-4 (NASB)**

<sup>3</sup> *"Listen to Me, O house of Jacob, And all the remnant of the house of Israel, You who have been borne by Me from birth And have been carried from the womb;*

<sup>4</sup> *Even to your old age I will be the same, And even to your graying years I will bear you! I have done it, and I will carry you; And I will bear you and I will deliver you.*

**Third, God blessed Israel by revealing to her His own presence in the shekinah glory.**

In that unique and inexplicable way, God dwelt in the midst of His people.

In the wilderness,

**Exodus 16:10 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> *It came about as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the sons of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud.*

It was in His glory that He appeared to Israel at Sinai;

**Exodus 24:16-17 (NASB)**

<sup>16</sup> *The glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; and on the seventh day He called to Moses from the midst of the cloud.*

<sup>17</sup> *And to the eyes of the sons of Israel the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the mountain top.*

And His glory was present in the tent of meeting, where He spoke;

**Exodus 29:42-43 (NASB)**

<sup>42</sup> *"It shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the doorway of the tent of meeting before the LORD, where I will meet with you, to speak to you there.*

<sup>43</sup> *"I will meet there with the sons of Israel, and it shall be consecrated by My glory.*

**Leviticus 9:23 (NASB)**

<sup>23</sup> *Moses and Aaron went into the tent of meeting. When they came out and blessed the people, the glory of the LORD appeared to all the people.*

His glory was supremely present in the Holy of Holies in the Tabernacle and then the temple, manifested in light between the wings of the cherubim on the ark of the covenant;

**Exodus 25:21-22 (NASB)**

<sup>21</sup> *"You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the testimony which I will give to you.*

<sup>22</sup> *"There I will meet with you; and from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are upon the ark of the testimony, I will speak to you about all that I will give you in commandment for the sons of Israel.*

**Exodus 40:34 (NASB)**

<sup>34</sup> *Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.*

**1 Kings 8:10-11 (NASB)**

<sup>10</sup> *It happened that when the priests came from the holy place, the cloud filled the house of the LORD,*

<sup>11</sup> *so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.*

**Fourth, Israel was privileged to have been given the covenants.**

The first covenant was with Abraham, the physical father of all Jews.

**Genesis 15:15-21 (NASB)**

<sup>15</sup> *"As for you, you shall go to your fathers in peace; you will be buried at a good old age.*

<sup>16</sup> *"Then in the fourth generation they will return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete."*

<sup>17</sup> *It came about when the sun had set, that it was very dark, and behold, there appeared a smoking oven and a flaming torch which passed between these pieces.*

<sup>18</sup> *On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I have given this land, From the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:*

<sup>19</sup> *the Kenite and the Kenizzite and the Kadmonite*

<sup>20</sup> *and the Hittite and the Perizzite and the Rephaim*

<sup>21</sup> *and the Amorite and the Canaanite and the Girgashite and the Jebusite."*

And the Spiritual Father of all who believe;

**Romans 4:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> *and he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,*

Through Moses, Israel was given the covenant of law at Mount Sinai;

**Exodus 20:1-17 (NASB)**

<sup>1</sup> *Then God spoke all these words, saying,*

<sup>2</sup> *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.*

<sup>3</sup> *"You shall have no other gods before Me.*

<sup>4</sup> *"You shall not make for yourself an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth.*

<sup>5</sup> *"You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me,*

<sup>6</sup> *but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

<sup>7</sup> *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*

<sup>8</sup> *"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.*

<sup>9</sup> *"Six days you shall labor and do all your work,*

<sup>10</sup> *but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who stays with you.*

<sup>11</sup> *"For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.*

<sup>12</sup> *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.*

<sup>13</sup> *"You shall not murder.*

<sup>14</sup> *"You shall not commit adultery.*

<sup>15</sup> *"You shall not steal.*

<sup>16</sup> *"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*

<sup>17</sup> *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*

Through David Israel was given the covenant of and eternal kingdom,

*2 Samuel 7:8-16 (NASB)*

<sup>8</sup> *"Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel."*

<sup>9</sup> *"I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth."*

<sup>10</sup> *"I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,*

<sup>11</sup> *even from the day that I commanded judges to be over My people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. The LORD also declares to you that the LORD will make a house for you."*

<sup>12</sup> *"When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom."*

<sup>13</sup> *"He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."*

<sup>14</sup> *"I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men,*

<sup>15</sup> *but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you."*

<sup>16</sup> *"Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.""*

It also would be through Israel that God's supreme covenant of redemption through His Son would come;

*Jeremiah 31:31-34 (NASB)*

<sup>31</sup> *"Behold, days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,*

<sup>32</sup> *not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them," declares the LORD.*

<sup>33</sup> *"But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days," declares the LORD, "I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

<sup>34</sup> *"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

*Ezekiel 37:26 (NASB)*

<sup>26</sup> *"I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant with them. And I will place them and multiply them, and will set My sanctuary in their midst forever."*

No other nation has or ever will be blessed with such covenants.

As one commentator has observed, no aspect of Israel's history pointed out their uniqueness as the recipients of redemptive revelation more than these covenants.