

Romans 135

God's Personal Connections With Unbelieving Israel 3

Romans 9:4-5 (NASB)

⁴ *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,*

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

Amen.

We have been looking at the nine privileges that belong to Israel, from the Living and 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.**

We have already talked about the first four. And want to now go on to the rest of them.

Fifth, Israel was privileged by the giving of the Law of God to them through Moses.

In that Law Israel not only was taught the Ten Commandments but countless other principles and standards, the obeying of which would honor God and bring blessing on the people.

They were shown the way of blessing and prosperity, not only morally and spiritually but also materially. To disobey would mean they would be cursed. (Deuteronomy Chapters 27-28)

As Israel was encamped on the plains of Moab, shortly before entering the Promised Land, Moses reminded the people:

Deuteronomy 4:5-8 (NASB)

⁵ *"See, I have taught you statutes and judgments just as the LORD my God commanded me, that you should do thus in the land where you are entering to possess it.*

⁶ *"So keep and do them, for that is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'*

⁷ *"For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the LORD our God whenever we call on Him?*

⁸ *"Or what great nation is there that has statutes and judgments as righteous as this whole law which I am setting before you today?*

As Paul had already told his readers, Israel had the incomparable privilege of being custodian of the "Oracles of God"

Romans 3:1-2 (NASB)

¹ *Then what advantage has the Jew? Or what is the benefit of circumcision?*

² *Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God.*

Now these oracles not only included the books of Moses but all of what we now call the Old Testament. So, it in-compassed all the teaching of God's Word in the Old Testament.

Sixth, Israel was uniquely blessed by being entrusted with the temple service, through which she worshiped and dealt with sin before the Lord.

The **Temple Service** refers to the entire ceremonial system that God revealed through Moses, the sacrifices, offerings, cleansings, and other means of worship and repentance administered by the Priests and Levites.

When Israel obediently and sincerely worshiped the Lord, He promised:

Exodus 29:43-46 (NASB)

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

⁴⁴ *"I will consecrate the tent of meeting and the altar; I will also consecrate Aaron and his sons to minister as priests to Me.*

⁴⁵ *"I will dwell among the sons of Israel and will be their God.*

⁴⁶ *"They shall know that I am the LORD their God who brought them out of the land of Egypt, that I might dwell among them; I am the LORD their God.*

Seventh, Israel was given the promises of God in a distinct and unique way.

Although Paul does not explain the nature of the promises, it seems likely that he was referring to the promised Messiah, who would come out of Israel, and to His promised kingdom, as well as to eternal life.

That is the promise of which Peter reminded his audience in Jerusalem at Pentecost, saying:

Acts 2:39 (NASB)

³⁹ *"For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself."*

Later in the book of Acts, Luke reports Paul's message to Jews in Galatia;

Acts 13:32-34 (NASB)

³² *"And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,*

³³ *that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'*

³⁴ *"As for the fact that He raised Him up from the dead, no longer to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY and SURE blessings OF DAVID.'*

2 Samuel 7:8-17 (NASB)

⁸ *"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.*

⁹ *"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.*

¹⁰ "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,

¹¹ 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.

¹² "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.

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

¹⁴ "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,

¹⁵ but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

¹⁶ "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."''

¹⁷ In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

Eighth, Paul reminds his readers that it was from Israel that God raised up the fathers, beginning with the first great patriarchs, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob/Israel. It was through those men that the foundations of all the blessings were laid.

Ninth, and finally, Israel was privileged to provide the lineage of Christ according to the flesh.

Christ was not incidentally born a Jew but was preordained to be a human descendant of Abraham and of David. It was for this reason that Matthew gives the genealogy of Jesus' adoptive father, Joseph;

Matthew 1:1-17 (NASB)

¹ *The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

² *Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers.*

³ *Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram.*

⁴ *Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon.*

⁵ *Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse.*

⁶ *Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah.*

⁷ *Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa.*

⁸ *Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah.*

⁹ *Uzziah was the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah.*

¹⁰ *Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josiah.*

¹¹ *Josiah became the father of Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.*

¹² *After the deportation to Babylon: Jeconiah became the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel.*

¹³ *Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud, Abihud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor.*

¹⁴ *Azor was the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud.*

¹⁵ *Eliud was the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob.*

¹⁶ *Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.*

¹⁷ *So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.*

Then we have Luke's giving the genealogy of His natural mother Mary;

Luke 3:23-38 (NASB)

²³ *When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli,*

²⁴ *the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,*

²⁵ *the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Hesli, the son of Naggai,*

²⁶ *the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda,*

²⁷ *the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,*

²⁸ *the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,*
²⁹ *the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,*
³⁰ *the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,*
³¹ *the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,*
³² *the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,*
³³ *the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,*
³⁴ *the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,*
³⁵ *the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Heber, the son of Shelah,*
³⁶ *the son of Cainan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,*
³⁷ *the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan,*
³⁸ *the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*

Jesus Himself told the Samaritan woman that:

John 4:22-26 (NASB)

²² *"You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.*

²³ *"But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers.*

²⁴ *"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."*

²⁵ *The woman *said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us."*

²⁶ *Jesus *said to her, "I who speak to you am He."*

Now in closing this abbreviated but comprehensive account of Israel's special blessings, Paul declares that Jesus Christ is by far their greatest blessing, the blessing in whom all the others find their full meaning, is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Now these words are not so much a benediction as an affirmation of Christ's divine majesty and lordship.

Without exception in Scripture, both in the Hebrew Old Testament and the Greek New testament, a doxology always places the word "blessed" before the name of God.

Here, Paul uses the reverse form, **God blessed**, indicating beyond doubt that the apostle intentionally equates **Christ** with **God**.

The antecedent of **God** is **who**, and the antecedent of **who** is **Christ**.

This was the supreme blessing, ye they rejected Him! Tragic unbelief that grieved the heart of Paul and grieves the heart of God Himself.

As we continue with Paul's message here, we see that Israel's Unbelief Is Consistent with God's Plan, and it is consistent with His promises.

We must understand that while the major theme of chapters 9-11 is God's dealing with His elect nation, the underlying theme, especially of chapter 9, is God's sovereignty in doing so.

It demands more than a superficial understanding. And yet, when the deepest meaning and implications of this passage are carefully considered, especially its unambiguous declarations of God's absolute and unrestricted sovereign power, even the most devoted believer is left with some profound mysteries.

In 1948, Jews reestablished the nation of Israel in part of the ancient land that God had promised them through Abraham. In the Six-Day War of 1967, they acquired more of that land, including full control over their holy city of Jerusalem.

But the modern state of Israel is not a theocracy, with God as its sovereign Lord, or even a nation ruled by God serving leaders.

And although it contains large and influential religious groups, it is, like most nations of today, a secular state.

Some Israelis are openly atheistic. Others cherish their religious biblical heritage and see it as the key to justify their right to the land.

Some even believe the state of Israel itself is the Messiah spoken of figuratively in the Old testament, the promised deliverer who would regain Jewish rights and influence in a world where the nation has so long been persecuted and suppressed.

Ok we will talk more of this next time.