

96-10-11b

Okay, we're ready to resume now after our break in Romans chapter 9. We've already seen that one of the reasons that or actually eight of the reasons why Paul is so sorrowful about the standing of Israel in his day and in the plan of God overall He says look at the things that they have they are Israelites and being an Israelite is a special thing and here are eight reasons why we've seen the glory the covenants the the Giving of the law on Mount Sinai. This was the Treasure that God placed in earthen vessels when he Inscribed it on the tablets the Ten Commandments when he gave Moses all of the ordinances. This was the unique Peculiar special way of life for the people of God they were to be separate Come out from among them and be separate touch not the unclean thing They were the receptacle for the glory of God and they were supposed to be different their lifestyle their customs their worship designed to reflect the glory of God and to communicate the glory of God to the world and instead they made it an end in itself instead of seeing it as the meeting it as an expression of Faith and as an expression of love for God in their soul.

They saw it as the means of Justifying themselves before God they didn't see their role in the world Unbeknownst to most of us as believers. That's the message of the book of Jonah The whole purpose of the book of Jonah is to sting Israel's Pride Jonah represents Israel and in his callous disregard for all of those living souls in Nineveh He's more concerned about the withering of the gourd because it affects him then he is all of these Souls in Nineveh who don't know their right hand from their left and We always think of Jonah and the great fish and so forth But the purpose of that book Yonah in Hebrew It means the dove and the dove was a symbol in Israel of something that was flighty and indecisive and didn't commit to anything It was here now and next minute. It's gone and God compares Israel to the dove they're Inconsistent they're unpredictable and they don't recognize the importance of what Jonah they have a callousness and an insensitivity toward their appointed role of proclaiming God's righteousness and God's judgment And this is what the giving of the law entailed.

We have the giving of the law in Deuteronomy chapter 4 and following Deuteronomy of course is the The bulk of the book is taken up with the content of the law but in Deuteronomy 4 It says now Oh Israel listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe So that you may live and go in and possess the land Which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you so that you may live we've seen time and again in Romans that this idea of life and death is Life in the sense of quality life in the sense of fulfillment and meaning and purpose It's not just whether you physically survive You shall not add to the word which I command you nor take from it that you may keep the commandment of the Lord your God Which I command you your eyes have seen what the Lord did it by all Peor for the Lord your God has destroyed from among you all the men who followed by all of Peor That was one of the first times God cleansed the nation of the idol worshipers He started the nation out that way and he's going to end them up that way in the Millennium But you who held fast to the Lord your God are alive today every one of you Surely I

have taught you statutes and judgments just as the Lord my God commanded me that you should act according to them in the land Which you go to possess Therefore be careful to observe them for this 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 for what great nation is there that has God so near to it as The Lord our God is to us For whatever reason we may call upon him and what great nation's judgments as are in all this law Which I set before you this day only take heed to yourself and Diligently keep yourself Lest you forget the things your eyes have seen unless they depart from your heart All the days of your life and teach them to your children and your grandchildren And of course In this day, one of the things that we notice about this is it doesn't say teach them to other people's children Says teach them to your children and teach them to your grandchildren Parental responsibility like many responsibilities is not able to be delegated. You can't hand off responsibility for children to schools or daycare centers or babysitters or anyone else God will hold every parent accountable for The training and the upbringing of their child and God set the pattern here for Israel All of this wisdom and all the words of this law were to be taught to the children Especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb when the Lord said to me gather the people to me and I will let them hear my words that they may learn to fear me all the days They live on the earth and that they may teach their children Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven with darkness Cloud and thick darkness and the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire You heard the sound of the words but saw no form you only heard a voice So he declared to you his covenant which he commanded you to perform the Ten Commandments and he wrote them on two tablets of stone and The Lord commanded me at that time to teach you Statutes and judgments that you might observe them in the land which you cross over to possess Take careful heed to yourselves. Now.

What's he talking about here? We haven't seen anything in the way of exhortations to faith have we to believe that God exists and to believe that God is the God of Israel and why is that because These people are believers and this is the Word of God. This is the life of the people of God That's contained in the law. The law is not a means of salvation.

It was never presented that way God never said Observe the law and you will live eternally and you'll avoid the lake of fire He said this is the key to prosperity. This is the key to reflecting the glory of God. This is the key to Blessing and reward and prosperity and pleasing the Lord your God the Lord your God because he's talking to believers That's the role of the law.

It's the possession of the people of God. It's the possession of Israel and He goes on to say take careful heed to yourselves in verse 15 You saw no form when the Lord spoke to you at Horeb out of the midst of the fire Lest you act corruptly and make for yourselves a carved image in the form of any figure The likeness of male or female animal and so forth and it's a warning against idolatry What is the fundamental idea in idolatry? Why would someone carve out a statue of something and say this is my God? What are they doing when they do that? It's a denial of who

and what God is isn't it? It's a denial of responsibility before God because not only do you say do you deny God the glory and the respect and the worship which is his due? But you also relieve yourself of responsibility to God if you say well, I'm not going to play that game I'm not going to follow the commandments of God you excuse yourself from accountability before God you say I'm only accountable to this little God right here and I'm gonna make up the rules that this old God has He's going to have me go in and make out with this temple prostitute and he's gonna let me keep all the things I'll just make little token sacrifices to this God and you set up your own rules to gratify your own desires And so God warned him and he said you're not to set up any idols. Well, we know we're so sophisticated technological we don't set you know a Computer or a little object up here and worship it and set up rules for it and say this is my religion In in that overt way, but in subtle ways and in the heart we do set up idols We do say this is more important than my life before God we do say meeting this standard and fulfilling this goal Allows me to excuse myself for my responsibility before the Lord God Before the father of our Lord Jesus Christ We say well, I I'm just going to avoid looking into the truth of God's Word and I won't be accountable for it I'm just going to be accountable for this.

I'll go to church. I'll give I'll pray I'll witness or I'll do these different things That's going to be the system that I'm going to going to operate in and it's in a way It's just like idolatry because we excuse ourselves from accountability. We excuse ourselves from responsibility That comes from the knowledge of the Word of God And that's why this chapter Deuteronomy 4 places such emphasis on knowing what God has said because whether you learn it or not We're all going to be held accountable to the Word of God But this was the possession of the people of God it was a great privilege God didn't give it to any of the other civilizations in history only to Israel so Romans 9 for they have the adoption.

They have the glory they have the covenants They have the giving of the law. It doesn't just say the law It's the giving of the law and why is that? Because when you just think about the law you think about what it ended up like in Israel Paul says I don't want you to think about the law the way it has turned out this legalism and this false means of righteousness I want you to think about the giving of the law That's why we went back to Deuteronomy 4 because at the giving of the law. What was the emphasis? This is a way to express your Obedience to God your worship of God your care about God reflect the fact that you are the people of God He's giving you this Way of life to observe so they have the giving of the law the law in its untainted uncorrupted state He also says you have the service and if you have a new King James You'll see that the service and the words of God after that are in italics because it says the service, but this word in Greek is worship service, this is service in a worship context in a religious context and What does that mean? Well, you can look at Exodus 12 25 to begin with and in Exodus 12 You have the Statement by the Lord Verse 24.

He says you shall observe this thing this Passover Feast as an ordinance for you and your sons forever It will come to pass when you come to the land which the Lord will give you just as he

promised that you shall keep this service This Observance and this of course is a reference to the Passover observance This was one of the feasts and this is a service this performs a function in the plan of God It is designed not only to be a means of expression for Israel, but it also is a means of communication. It communicates to People in the land and it communicates to the land roundabout People want to know why is it that the Israelites are splashing blood on their doorposts? nobody else in the world at that time was killing the best of the flock the the lamb without spot without blemish and Splashing its blood all over the doorway and going through this rather bizarre meal. Why what are they doing? well, that's an opportunity to talk about God and his Righteousness and the righteous requirement of the law and without the shedding of blood There is no remission and it was a means of many of the Gentiles to come to saving faith in the Old Testament age By seeing the things that were communicated that there is a righteous standard that God has provided a way that even in our fallen state we can meet that standard because he Uses his own righteousness to meet his own standard if we trust him and so the worship system in Israel Served not only as an expression and a way of life for the people of God, but it also was a means of communication It was a picture Bible It was as good as a video or a movie is today in getting across Information and it was memorable People would say I was in a caravan passing through this Israelite land and I saw the most bizarre thing and they would go through these details and it would stick in people's mind and if They listened to the teaching of a teacher in Israel or a faithful priest They would explain what that meant what it symbolized and that that God had a righteous standard that had to be met and so forth.

So this service the the temple Worship which began in the tabernacle, of course with the Levites and the praise that they perform the sons of Korah and so forth singing the praises of God the Levites that served in the daily sacrifices and in all of the rituals the observance of the feasts and the the cleansing rituals and purification rituals all of these things were designed to communicate and As we have seen from just a few digressions back into Leviticus such as Leviticus 14 when we studied the purification of a cleansed leper every detail of those rituals is Freighted with meaning and with communication. It's a it's a it's the most complete Christology in the Bible the is in the law of Moses and in the ordinances for Sacrifice and for the feasts you learn more about Jesus Christ in the Old Testament than you will in the new in terms of what he did on the cross redemption reconciliation propitiation the hypostatic Union and so forth is detailed in this graphic Symbolic way in the law and that service is what it's talking about It's not just the right and wrong rules in the law But the beauty of the ritual practices is what's in view when he says this belongs to Israel this service Of God and then the last of these things in verse 4 is the promises Well now how is that different from the covenants? What's the difference in a covenant and a promise? The covenants in the Old Testament and some people talk about conditional and unconditional covenants and so forth There are certain things that are absolutely going to take place and those are contained in the covenants God Promised Abraham that he would make of him a great nation And it doesn't matter whatever happens from Abraham forward. There is going to be a great nation come from Abraham.

It's a Covenant that God made with Abraham. God said that they would possess a land God told Israel that they would cross the Jordan and take possession of the land He had promised to Abraham Isaac and Jacob God told David that there would be a throne and there would be a kingdom and that one of his descendants would sit on that That is going to happen. Absolutely.

No doubt. No question It is a covenant between God and the nation of Israel a promise on the other hand may or may not be fulfilled it depends on what the promise II does with that promise and And for example when Israel stood on Mount Ebal and Mount Gerizim and and God communicated through Moses and Joshua the blessings and curses and said if you Do well, the land will flow with milk and honey. Your flocks will multiply one of you will put to flight a thousand The the rain will come the earth will yield its fruit in its season.

You will be bountiful. You will be blessed You will prosper you will multiply you will All of these great things are going to take place that was a promise from God that if they were obedient and faithful That's what he would do. Then.

There's this great huge adversative conjunction, but if you disobey if you follow after the gods of the peoples that I am driving out before you if you Intermarry with them if you fall away and disobey and don't perform these commandments The sky will turn to bronze and the dirt will go dry and will not yield its crops and you'll plant a hundred seeds and only One will come up Your babies will die in childbirth. Your your men will die in youth instead of old age You will suffer disease famine pestilence. The locusts will come enemies will come swords hoof beats the whole bit It's nothing but a a great desolate wasteland promised by God for disobedience Those are the promises they promise both great opportunity and great discipline because that is also the heritage of the people of God It's like they always say rank has its privileges rank has its responsibilities From those to whom much is given much is required God gave much to the nation of Israel in the way of Covenants and in the way of blessing and privilege and so forth from Israel God expects more than he does from the other nations because they have all of these things and From those to whom much is given much is required and that's the giving of the promises And that's where you start getting into that.

It can be a great plus or it can be a great minus We see other places in the Bible where Paul says it would have been better Had they not known the way of righteousness than to have known it and fallen away because Once you know the way of righteousness and this again is talking about believers If you learn and grow and you place yourself in that position of great privilege And so forth and then you abandon it all and throw it over your discipline is going to be far worse than for a believer That never got on board the train to begin with that's what the Bible teaches great privilege Brings with it great responsibility. And so you need to look and as Jesus said about following him You need to count the cost be aware that as we learn and grow we become responsible. That's why we Have the death penalty for adults and we don't have the death penalty for juveniles We figured that by the time you're an adult you're you know more you

understand more and we hold you accountable for more The penalties are different for juveniles.

We cut them some slack because we figure they're They don't have the benefit of more experience and more training and so forth. That's the way it is in our lives So when he says that to Israel belongs the promise Those are the good promises and the bad promises read and pick any book of the prophets and you'll get a taste of God's promises And he says Of whom are the fathers Who can claim Abraham Isaac and Jacob as their? Founding fathers only Israel now the Arabs can claim Abraham, but they can't claim Isaac and they can't claim Jacob That's why he doesn't say of whom are Abraham But of whom are the fathers Abraham Isaac and Jacob and he's going to come back and talk about Isaac and Jacob and this idea of the fathers is is going to come back. It's going to recur in this chapter So he's not introducing it idly Abraham Isaac and Jacob they are the fathers those men each communicated directly with the God of heaven and They are the progenitors of the nation and they belong uniquely to Israel You get this for example in Deuteronomy chapter 10 and verse 15 I haven't been overwhelming you with verses that we could go to dozens of passages on each of these eight things Let me just give you this one in Deuteronomy 10 Starting at verse 12 now.

Oh Israel. What does the Lord your God require of you? Now? Here's the key This is in the beginning part of Deuteronomy What does the Lord your God require of you? But to fear the Lord your God to walk in all his ways and to love him To serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and to keep the commandments of the Lord and his Statutes which I command you today for your good Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God also the earth with all that is in it The Lord delighted only in your fathers to love them and he chose their descendants after them You above all peoples as it is this day Therefore do what? Circumcised the foreskin of your heart and be stiff-necked no longer When you look at the fact that God has made you the chosen people it ought to change your heart It ought to change your motivation. It ought to change your priorities in your view of life You've been granted a great Privilege and a great opportunity don't blow it is the idea That's the heritage of Israel to them belong the fathers God chose them and gave them this unique role in his plan now Before we go any further in Romans 9, I want to point something out.

We've seen these eight things, right? we've seen the adoption the glory the covenants the giving of the law the service of God the promises the fathers and the last and greatest from whom according to the flesh Christ came and You can go to the genealogies in Matthew and in Luke and see the tracing One of them goes all the way back to Adam the other one starts with the house of David and comes forward and gives the lineage of the humanity of Jesus Christ and It was the privilege of Israel to claim Jesus Christ as their own Of course, they completely as a nation Repudiated that and turned him over to the Romans to be crucified but These eight things Belong to Israel now, let me ask you something These belong to the nation of Israel If someone is outside the nation of Israel is the fact that they're not in that nation mean that they can't be saved In other words, do you require these things in your nation for eternal salvation? Do any of these

things? Guarantee salvation or does the lack of any of these things present prevent someone from obtaining eternal salvation? Do you see my point here Israel has all of these things from God, but this does not determine Salvation or the lack of salvation for any person on the planet. None of these things determine eternal destiny What do these things determine these things are a part of and these things determine the role That one plays in the plan of God and this has been the subject in Romans What role do we play in the plan of God? Paul has already gone to great lengths in the last couple of chapters talking about the fact that people that lived under the law fulfilled a particular purpose in God's plan they had a role to play and It demonstrated that by the works of the law no flesh can be declared righteous You can't just go out and do good deeds and be declared righteous. That was the function that they fulfilled in God's plan Israel by the possession of these things fulfills a specific role in God's plan This has nothing to do with whether or not someone gets saved nothing to do with determining or denying Life with God in the eternal future for any person in the human race.

These are all determining What role you're going to play? Think about some Old Testament believers that were not Israelites think about Naaman the Syrian who was healed of leprosy and was talking with the Prophet and he said well I have to go back and continue to fulfill my role as a general and a servant for my king and the Prophet told him Go in peace God basically excuses you from Moving to Israel becoming an Israelite engaging in all the worship life of Israel God understands that you've got this role to play and you're excused He wasn't an Israelite and he didn't become a proselyte to Israel, but he was a believer Naaman in the Syrian Obtained eternal salvation and could live a life of faith Outside the nation of Israel as did Rahab as did Balaam as did many other Old Testament believers that were not Israelites per se Ruth for example so the point we want to keep clear in our minds as we launch into Romans 9 here is when we start talking about Israel and The privileges and the things that God sovereignly gave to them as a nation His choice of Israel and his gifts to Israel did not Have an effect on their salvation It had an effect on the role that they would play in God's plan This is the place where believers will come This is the nation where the people of God Should function and should worship and should live their lives and this is the way they should live their lives Here's the law that shows how to express the faith that's in their heart and the love for God that they have but having these things didn't make all the little kids in Israel grow up to be believers and It didn't keep all the little kids in Syria and Egypt and the other nations from becoming believers Everyone comes to God consciousness and awareness that God exists Everyone is convicted of sin righteousness and judgment by the Holy Spirit and everyone makes their decision about God These things were a role Let me give you an analogy In the nation of Israel you had 12 tribes different tribes fulfill different Functions Judah ended up being the tribe from which the rulers came the monarchs from David forward In the southern kingdom, especially we're all from the tribe of Judah. It had been predicted on Jacob's deathbed that Judah would be the tribe from which the rulers came even though there were three or four brothers ahead of him chronologically That's where Christ came from the tribe of Judah The tribe of Levi was assigned a specific function to carry out the worship in Israel They didn't even they didn't get land their heritage was

the house of the Lord and they possessed no territory in the nation of Israel Now did the fact that someone was a Levite make him any more likely or any less likely to be a believer any more or Less likely to spend eternity with God or in the lake of fire It was a role that they fulfilled by virtue of being born into that tribe The tribe of Benjamin had many mighty left-handed warriors Different tribes had different destinies and they're all mapped out there and David and Jacob's dying words but the point here is This is a role that they fulfilled the Levites fulfilled a particular function We have roles today Some of us are born male and some of us are born female and God has assigned roles Different ones of us have a different spiritual gift It doesn't reflect anything on our salvation or our worthiness before God doesn't mean that because the woman Has the children and raises them and trains them and the man goes out earns the bread by the sweat of his brow It says nothing about the value of a man or a woman before God it's the role that they have been assigned in his park ourselves out to try to assure people that they're Just as worthy as someone else and if people look at their role and say this demeans me and devalues me They're mixing up apples and oranges the role that you fulfill some of the finest people with the highest integrity the most character and and would be someone you would embrace and take to your bosom and Have live in your house were butlers and Maids and people who were in a service role, but it didn't reflect on their quality Anybody in the military understands this you can have somebody that's a junior NCO and in your mind He soars high above 99% of all of the officers that you know His rank doesn't determine his value doesn't determine his standing as a human being it determines his role What function does he fulfill the junior NCO does not go attend the meetings of the Joint Chiefs of Staff? He doesn't determine policy and procedure the officers do that That's their role But it doesn't give them any greater value the fact that somebody's got a little bit of gold on their cap just tells you what their function is not what their value is and It's true everywhere in life Here it's essential for us to understand as we go into this chapter that the things that God has given to Israel determine their role Not their value not their salvation not their attitude toward God there are many wonderful privileges that sit there for people in the nation of Israel but by and large people in that nation blew right on past that pursuing more flocks and more herds and more commerce and more trade and idols and going in for the religious practices of the pagans because it was fun and you got to do these temple prostitute business and all that and Self gratification was their downfall. They did not mix the promises of God with faith as it says in Hebrews Having all of these things didn't make any more Israelites become believers Or any less now I happen to think that God knew That some people would be believers ahead of time and had them be born in that nation So they would have the availability of the worship and so forth God can determine when and where you're born without having it somehow Determine what your choices are going to be the fact that most of the believers were in Israel simply means that God knew where to Have them be born at what point would there be and having all the believers be born in? early America To the descendants of the Eskimos or something where they they'd have to go all over again and try to reveal his word He's already given a great revelation of his word on Mount Sinai Why not have people that he knows are going to be responsive be born in that nation so that provision is there for them? And people say well, what about all the Chinese going back to

before the flood and how did they get the gospel and so forth? Well God in his omniscience knows who's going to be responsive and who's not and if there's going to be 250,000 people born in a given year and God knows they're all going to be rejecters of God Why have them be born in Israel? I don't why not have them be born over in China let them have their invent their firecrackers and do whatever they're going to do over there and God doesn't have to knock himself out sending the missionaries and giving them their own Mount Sinai in their own law And so forth and so without determining people's volition God obviously has organized Human history and knows when and where to have believers be born.

He knew he was going to need an Apostle Paul He said where's one of the most positive people that's ever going to live in the human race. I'm gonna have him be born here I'm gonna make sure he's a Roman citizen. I'm gonna have him be on the road to Damascus and so forth and so God Can organize things without determining them as my point? So God gave these things to Israel and they determined Israel's role as a nation They didn't change Israel's mind.

They didn't change their destiny from hell to heaven as it were But they have been assigned a particular function Now Paul's whole point when we get through chapter 9 and chapter 10 and chapter 11 talking about the Israelites He's going to turn this argument to us and say look you're in the church age and guess what? We also have been assigned a role in God's plan. We also have been given great promises and covenants and Opportunities from God that haven't existed in any other dispensation It doesn't mean that the Old Testament saints are less that they're the poor little earthly people and we're the wonderful glorious heavenly people We have been assigned a different function We have the opportunity to fulfill the function of being the brethren that surround Jesus Christ that we saw in Romans 8 We have the opportunity to be those that surround him and reflect his glory So that he can be the firstborn among many brethren. That's our particular opportunity our particular assigned role But most of us are not going to fulfill that role because we're going to do the very same thing The Israelites did when they were given precious Promises and precious resources and great opportunities from God We are going to blow right on by it just like they did and we look at at Hebrews talking about how they didn't mix the promises of God with faith and they dropped in the wilderness and they They missed and we think how foolish how silly how could they have seen the Red Sea part and and not have been faithful to God for life.

Well, we do the very same thing and we have to watch out for the very same pitfall of getting caught up in whether or not we're recognized as having value whether or not people think that we're meaningful and that our life has purpose and whether or not people think that we Are righteous or good or worthy or whatever and get back to recognizing that God has assigned us a role. That's our calling Whom he foreknew he predestinated in this age to be conformed to the image of his son. That's our Role to be conformed to the image of Christ So that he can be the firstborn among many brethren and who be predestinated.

Those are the ones he called he said look Here's your opportunity. Here's your role get with it

Just like Moses did back here in Deuteronomy chapter 4. What other people on earth has God given such a great Privilege an opportunity to than you don't blow it is what Moses says in Deuteronomy 4 And that's what Paul is saying when we get through Romans 9 10 and 11. He's going to come back in 12 Therefore everybody knows Romans 12 1 and present your bodies as a living sacrifice Do not be conformed to the world be transformed.

Why does he launch into that in Romans 12? He said don't do what the Israelites did don't get oblivious and miss out and Misunderstand The plan of God and the role that we've been assigned We're not here to fulfill the role that the Israelites fulfilled. They were given the law and the promises. That's not our role Our role is righteousness by faith conformity to the image of Christ Seizing and holding the ground that Christ Won the victory over on the cross the death he died he died to send the life he lives he lives to God and So that's the purpose of Romans chapter 9 if we keep that clearly in our mind as we go forward and talk about Jacob If I loved he saw if I hated and all the other sticky Problem quote-unquote parts of Romans 9 if we just remember that this is what Paul is talking about This is how it fits into the argument of the book It's going to it's going to lay down and make perfect sense and be very clear That's the way God designed it to be and it's only because we seize up and choke when we read it and we start thinking about salvation and predestination and God loves some people and hates others and he Snatches some as burning brands out of the fire and takes them to heaven and the rest He just consigns to eternal wrath and damnation and it's all in his this is how some people have come out of Romans 9 And it's a terrible tragedy because it's designed to have exactly the opposite effect.

It's designed to make us realize the great Patience of God the fortitude that God has in Putting up with a lot of us that miss the calling don't understand the role don't get with the program For the sake of those who do he puts up with a huge amount of this and that's where Paul is going to be going in Romans 9 so As you see this he says and I don't want to go lightly over this last and greatest privilege that Israel has From whom according to the flesh Christ came who is over all the eternally blessed God And this is just designed to remind us of what I'm of all of the privileges if this was the only one you had it Would be by far the greatest the eternal God made flesh was an Israelite Jesus Christ was a Jew and Sometimes in a lot of whitewashed Christian churches Nobody seems to really remember that and they've gone so far as to make a translation of the New Testament that you know when you go through and it says He was handed over to the Jews or the Jews conspired and plotted on how they might kill him and so forth and basically The Gospels say that the Jews turned Christ over to the Romans to be crucified and they say oh, that's that's demeaning to the Jews That they you know, you're blaming the Jews you blame them for everything else Now you're blaming him for the crucifixion of Christ and and so forth And so they've they've actually come out with a translation of the New Testament that changes all that phraseology And it doesn't say the Jews anymore and it just says the the leaders You know, it wasn't the people at large. It wasn't the Jews as a racist bent personalities on high that brought this about and relieves the nation of responsibility for rejecting the Messiah in this and Christ himself came he was a Jew. He was an Israelite and that's a wonderful Privilege and possession

of the nation of Israel But look at what he says in verse 6 It is not that the Word of God has taken no effect for they are not Israel all Israel who are Israel nor are they all Children because they are the seed of Abraham, but in Isaac your seed shall be called Now when we pick up next time we're going to launch into this contrast that Paul draws between Isaac and Ishmael and We're going to see why he brings that up did God sovereignly decree that Isaac would be a Believer and would love God and would seek to obey him and then Ishmael would be an evil skulking figure Why is it that Paul brings up the distinction between Isaac and Ishmael we already have a clue.

They're both sons of Abraham, aren't they and as sons of Abraham? they are heirs of the promise that God made to Abraham that From him would come many nations and through him all the peoples of the world would be blessed and so forth The potential is there and and yet God says no your your line is not going to the line I'm talking about is not going to come through Ishmael. It's going to come through Isaac Why does God say that and how much of that did God predetermine and how much of it did Isaac and Ishmael determine? well, that's That's some great material to cover and that's where we'll be next time let's close here in prayer Father we thank you for the truth of your word. We thank you for the great truth that's contained in the Old Testament and everything that it communicates and we know as the author of Hebrews tells us that all these things were written for our instruction and we thank you for the Book of Romans that you've brought down to us that Paul wrote under the ministry of the Holy Spirit We thank you that it gives us an opportunity to be Schooled in these things and to see the great Purpose that you have in human history and the purposes that you have assigned to various groups throughout Human history we pray that as we study these things We will come to a greater consciousness and awareness of what our own role and our own purpose is we pray that we will have a clear view of our calling and The high mark that has been set before us and that we will be able to join the Apostle Paul in pressing toward that mark and Arriving at the place of reflecting the glory of our Savior Jesus Christ.

We ask these things in his name. Amen