

When a People Rejects God

Romans 9:25-29

25 As He says also in Hosea: "I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved." 26 "And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God." 27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth." 29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."

Paul tells us that Israel in the Old Testament are examples for us. Not to follow but to avoid.

2 Corinthians 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

One of the reasons that we have been given the Scriptures is that we might learn from the mistakes of others. And there were plenty of mistakes. A wise man will learn from the lives of others and should be spurred to action or precaution.

Paul gives us several places to look for these in today's message.

In the days of Hosea. In the days of Isaiah. And the example of Sodom and Gomorrah.

In each of these Paul reflects on what Israel did or would not do and the result of it.

Actions have results.

There are always consequences for the things we do or fail to do. So this is more than just a history lesson.

For we are writing history as a nation today, and we cannot escape the consequences of our actions.

I. Hosea

A. Hosea was a prophet to the northern tribes of Israel in about 753-715 B.C.

1. Hosea was a strange case as prophets go.
 - a. He was commanded to marry a prostitute named Gomer.
 - b. She would later prove to be unfaithful to him and desert him for other lovers.
2. They had three children.
 - a. The first was named Jezreel which means scattered and indicated the Israel would be scattered over the face of the earth.

- b. The second was named Lo-Ruhamah, which meant not pitied and indicated that God would not have pity on them during those centuries when they were abandoned by God.
 - (1) God called the daughter “Not-Loved” or “Not-Pitied” because during the ages in which the Jews would be scattered among the Gentiles, God would show them no pity and would seem to have ceased loving them at all. *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1118.*
- c. The third child was name Lo-Ammi which means not my people and indicated that God would reject Israel as His people at least for a time and would abandon them during that time.
- d. His children literally became his message to the nation.
- 3. Later, after Gomer had left him and ran off with other men, she fell on hard times and was to be auctioned as a slave.
 - a. God commanded Hosea to go and purchase her back.
 - b. This so dramatically illustrated God’s relationship to Israel.
 - c. Israel is spoken of as the wife of God, an unfaithful wife.
 - d. But illustrates that God would still remain faithful to His unfaithful wife and bring
- B. Israel had reached the end of their time.
 - 1. Assyria had been chosen by God to deal the death blow to the northern kingdom.
 - 2. In 722 B.C. the capital Samaria fell to the Assyrians and they were carried away to never return as a nation.
 - 3. The Assyrians brought in a group of people from around Babylon to inhabit the land and they were still there in Jesus’ day.
- C. The Bringing in of the Gentiles
 - 1. Although in Hosea he is referring to the Israelites who had been cast off being brought back in, Paul adapts it to the Gentiles.
 - a. Hosea 2:23 (NKJV) 23 Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ”
 - 2. “Verse 24 (of Romans 9) is speaking of a new people, the elect people of

God, which is the church of Jesus Christ, composed of Jews and Gentiles. And the verses that follow obviously teach that the Gentiles, which were not a people, have now become the people of God along with believing Jews, and that the Jews as a nation continue to be rejected, although a remnant is saved. James Montgomery Boice, *Romans: God and History*, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1119.

3. This is also the case in 1 Peter, where Peter uses Hosea 2:23 of Gentiles in exactly this way: “Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy” (1 Peter 2:10). *James Montgomery Boice, Romans: God and History*, vol. 3 (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1991–), 1119.
4. What Paul and Peter are saying is that if these Israelites could be cast off and not be the people of God any longer but then God could take them back, then God could take the Gentiles who also were not the people of God but then He could bring them in also.

D. Sons of the Living God

1. Hosea 1:10 (NKJV) 10 "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.'
2. Think about that for a moment, Sons of the Living God.
3. All the way from not being acknowledged by God to becoming a son of the Living God.

II. Isaiah

A. The passage

1. Romans 9:27 "Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth."
2. Refers to Isaiah 10:22-23 (NKJV) 22 For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, A remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness. 23 For the Lord GOD of hosts Will make a determined end In the midst of all the land.
3. Goes back to Romans 9:23-24 (NKJV) 23 . . . and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, 24 even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

- B. To show that God had not failed in His plan with Israel Paul quotes from Isaiah 10:22-23
1. When the Jews of Isaiah's day had drifted so far from God, God had determined to send two great powers.
 - a. The first was the Assyrians in Isaiah's day who took all of the land with the exception of Jerusalem.
 - b. And had it not been for the intervention of God, they would have taken Jerusalem as well
 - c. So in 2 Kings 18 & 19 God delivers the last Jewish stronghold, Jerusalem from the Assyrians.
 2. But later in 606 B.C. God would allow the Babylonians to come and destroy the city.
 3. 70 years later a remnant would return.
- C. So is fulfilled the passage from Romans 9:29 "Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."
1. Also from the book of Isaiah.
 2. Lord of Sabaoth is often translated "Lord of hosts" and refers to God's all-encompassing lordship of the universe, of everything He has created. *The - MacArthur New Testament Commentary – Romans 9-16.*
- D. Paul's Desire for Israel
1. Paul's passionate concern for his fellow Israelites is a reminder that grief, rather than anger, resentment, or resignation, is the proper response to unbelief in others. - *Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation – Commentary on Romans.*
 2. So Paul's teaching about the sovereignty of God in saving a people for himself is meant to promote trust and encourage persistence in sharing the gospel of his grace with those who do not yet believe. *Biblical Theology for Christian Proclamation – Commentary on Romans.*
 3. So God set aside the Jews in order to bring in the Gentiles.
 4. Praise be to God for we, you and me, who once were not His people are now called the Sons of God.