



## God's Faithfulness to the True Children of Abraham

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Text: Romans 9:6 – 13

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. – Isaiah 55:8*

*But it is not as though the Word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are His offspring... it is not children of the flesh who are children of God, but children of the promise... - Romans 9:6 – 8*

### Introduction:

We can all be guilty of putting God in a box. How we formed our 'God-concept' is often a mystery. But there is one source that should inform our view of God more than any other, and that is the Word of God (the Bible) where God reveals Himself, especially through His Son.

In Romans 9 - 11 we are studying some of the hardest truths about God in all the Bible. If we are going to learn from Scripture, we need to be ready to take God out of the box we have put Him in. We need to be ready to humble ourselves and acknowledge His ways are higher than ours. We see this first in how God chooses His people, and how His people respond to Him in faith.

#### 1. Who are the True Children of Abraham? (9:6 – 7)

- Not every person who is a physical descendent of Abraham
- Not every person who lived among Israel throughout their history
- Not every person who belongs to the modern state of Israel since 1948

#### 2. How does God Fulfill His Word and Promises to His People Israel? (9:7 – 13)

- Not through ancestry or physical descent, but by spiritual descent through faith
- Not through fleshly ability, but by faith in the supernatural intervention of God
- Not through human works or ways, but by faith in God's purposes and mercy



## Study and Discussion Questions – God's Faithfulness to the True Children of Abraham

Romans 9:6 - 13

### Open It

1. Do you think you are ever guilty of putting God in a box? How so? Share it with someone.
2. How do you react when someone brags that God is on their side?

### Explore It

3. Why does Paul feel the need to defend the Word of God in these verses? (9:6)
4. How did Paul explain the difference between Jews who believe and Jews who do not? (9:6-8)
5. Whom does God bless as children of the promise? (9:7-9)
6. What was the problem with Ishmael being the child through whom Abraham's seed would continue and God would fulfill the promise? (9:8; Gen. 15 – 17)
7. What is the message of Paul to people who claim to be children of God merely because they are descendants of Abraham? (9:8-9) Or, because their parents are members of a church?
8. What decision did God make about Jacob and Esau before they were born? (9:12-13) Are we given a reason for the decision God made? (9:11)
9. How do you understand the words, '*Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated*'? (9:13) Perhaps these passages will help --- cf. Malachi 1:2 – 5; John 3:16, 36; Luke 14:26; 2 Peter 3:9.

### Get It

10. In what ways do people depend on a religious heritage for their salvation? Why is this wrong?
11. What does this passage teach us about God's character? What do you love most about God?
12. On what basis does God choose people to inherit His promises?

### Apply It

13. Does this Scripture make you think that perhaps you have had God in a box? Explain.
14. Take time this week to thank God for His acts of mercy and love to you?