

- (5) God chose the godly remnant of Israel, those who were true Israelites, who were both physical and spiritual descendants of Jacob, and showed mercy to them (vas. 6, 8, 27-29)
- (6) God chose individual Jews and Gentiles, and shows mercy to them by calling them to Himself and destining them for glory (vss. 14, 19-26)

Thrust of the passage:

- (1) Paul distinguishes between three classes of Abraham's descendants: physical descendants, physical descendants of promise, and physical descendants of promise who are also spiritual descendants. Each succeeding class is smaller than the previous one.
 - (2) Paul argues that not all physical descendants are descendants of promise. For example, not all of Abraham's physical children are inheritors of the Abrahamic covenant of promise. Isaac is, but Ishmael is not. Not all of Isaac's physical children are inheritors of the Abrahamic covenant of promise. Jacob is, but Esau is not. The difference lies in God's sovereign choice. He chooses Isaac; He chooses Jacob.
 - (3) Paul further argues that not all of the physical descendants of Jacob/Israel were also spiritual descendants, even though they were all descendants of the Abrahamic covenant of promise ratified with Jacob/Israel. He says, "they are not all Israel who are descended from Israel." This points to the fact that within the nation of Israel there was always a godly remnant according to God's sovereign and gracious choice.
 - (4) Paul wants us to understand that God's choice of nations or individuals for His mercy is based on His purpose (verse 11), and His desire (verse 18), and His will (verse 19); not on man's works (verse 11), or on man's will (verse 16), or on man's efforts (verse 16).
 - (5) Believing Jews and Gentiles today are vessels of God's mercy, whom He sovereignly chose for mercy, prepared beforehand for glory, and calls by His word and Spirit (verses 23-24).
- (3) Romans 11:1-7
- 1 I say then, God has not rejected His people, has He? May it never be! For I too am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.
 - 2 God has not rejected His people whom He foreknew. Or do you not know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?
 - 3 "Lord, they have killed Thy prophets, they have torn down Thine altars, and I alone am left, and they are seeking my life."