

THE POTTER'S HAND

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | SEPTEMBER 13, 2020



God Establishing True Israel - Romans 9:6-8

PURPOSE: To be malleable to how God is masterfully shaping our faith even as we “work it out” (Philippians 2:12-13).

I. Wakeup Call for Israel

A. Bombshell Introduction

But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel..

- Romans 9:6

1. Verse 6 shows Paul has a *literal* fulfillment expectation of Scripture (infallibility).
2. Verse 6 combined with the previous verse 5 shows Paul is still reeling from a huge continental divide placed in his life.

B. God's Promise Trumps Blood

...and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but “Through Isaac shall your offspring be named.”⁸ This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, **but the children of the promise are counted as offspring.**

- Romans 9:7-8

1. *Abraham's Actual First Son.* A little background is necessary in understanding what Paul is referring to. So here it goes. Abram and Sarai (their original names) were elderly and childless. But God promised the couple offspring as they traveled

away from their homeland of Ur. At some point on their journey, Sarai –exasperated with her realization of her being truly barren- commands her husband Abram to expedite the process by having relations with her younger Egyptian servant woman named Hagar. Thus Ishmael is born (see Genesis 16). But everyone knows the Jewish people don't all identify with Ishmael. They identify with Isaac the miracle baby Sarah later gives birth to several chapters over in Genesis 21 (this is after their formal name changes to Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 17, where *covenant* is emphasized).

2. *"The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."* This A-I-J sequence is quoted five times in the Bible. Notice it's A-I-J and not A-I-I-J-E for Abraham, Ishmael, Isaac, Jacob, and Esau. Intentionally, God wants us to know it is his sovereign promise and not simple blood relationships which keep his redemptive plan unfolding. This doesn't make Jewish blood immaterial (for proof of that see Romans 9:2, 9:5, and 11:28), but mere blood relations can no longer be the main thing. God's spoken decree is the main thing.
3. *Jesus' Forerunner's Admonition to the Jews.*

"And do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you, **God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham...**"

- Matthew 3:9
4. *"Remnant" Occurs 70+ Times in the Bible.* Fast forward to Romans 9:27 -And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, **only a remnant of them will be saved.**"

II. **Wakeup Call for the Church**

A. Jesus' Twelve Disciples, Minus One

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. **The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.**
⁶⁴ But there are some of you who do not believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning who those were who did not believe, and **who it was who would betray him.**)

- John 6:63-64

B. Paul's Lament over Church Attrition

Do your best to come to me soon. ¹⁰ For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica... ¹⁴ Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. ¹⁵ Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message. ¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them!

- 2 Timothy 4:9-10, 14-16

C. Jesus' Purge of Churches

“And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:
‘The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s creation. ¹⁵ “I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. ¹⁸ I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that

you may see. ¹⁹ Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. ²¹ **The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.** ²² He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

- Revelation 3:14-22

D. The Upside

Do you not know what the Scripture says of Elijah, how he appeals to God against Israel? ³ “Lord, they have killed your prophets, they have demolished your altars, and I alone am left, and they seek my life.” ⁴ But what is God’s reply to him? **“I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.”**

- Romans 11:2b-4

The Potter’s Hand Course Outline (tentative):

- September 6 - Introduction & Romans 9:1-5
- September 13 - God Establishing True Israel / Rom. 9:6-8
- September 20 - Literal Predestination / Rom. 9:9-13
- September 27 - Unaided Predestination / Rom. 9:14-18
- October 4 - Uncontested Predestination / Rom. 9:19-24
- October 11 - God Can Turn the Tables / Rom. 9:25-29
- October 18 - A God-Saturated Faith / Rom. 9:30-33
- October 25 - Conclusion