

Has God Failed

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Romans 9:1-13.
- B. The toughest questions of all of Scripture are in this chapter and the previous material must be understood to proceed. (Jeremiah 9)
- C. This section is an exhibition, not an explanation.
- D. God must do the entire work of salvation.
- E. The sad situation is that the Jews are far removed from God.

II. Paul was coming to the Jews as a loving hurting friend for the loss of spiritual relationship from which the Jews had suffered.

- A. Moses prayed a prayer of intercession like this as well.
- B. Paul is ready to take the Jews' place in hell.
- C. Paul is making an empathetic appeal.
- D. The reason for Paul's anguish is the possibilities they passed by: the adoption as sons, the covenants, the promises, the Patriarchs from whom Christ is, and the temple worship.

III. How God has worked among the Jews.

IV. Has God failed with the Jews.

- A. Israel failed, but God did not go down with Israel.
- B. We human beings cannot possibly anticipate how God will act all of the time.
 - 1. We can anticipate some of His activity.
 - 2. However, some of God's activity deliberately puzzles us.
 - 3. The fact that God has given someone unusual privilege does not mean He intends to save them.
- C. Principles of election.
 - 1. It is not based upon natural advantage.
 - 2. It is always based upon divine promise.

3. It is not of works—it is always by God's choice.

Application questions:

1. Why does Paul respond the way he does concerning the state of the Jews?

2. Why can it not be said that God has failed with regard to the Jews?

3. Which principle of election stands out to you? Explain.
