### Romans

## Chapter 9

1In the name of the Anointed One, I’m telling you this as the truth (no, I’m not lying).  
  
For my conscience testifies with me in Holy Breath 2that I’m extremely sad and constantly sick at heart, 3because I wish that I could be the one who’s cursed by being separated from the Anointed One – instead of my brothers and fleshly relatives, the IsraElites.  
  
4For the adoption as sons, the glory, the Sacred Agreement, the Law, the worship, and the promises all belong to these ones. 5They’re the ones [who descended] from the forefathers, and the ones the Anointed One [came] through, in the flesh…  
  
Yes, praise God who’s over it all throughout the ages!  
  
May it be so!  
  
  
6However, God’s Word hasn’t failed in this, because not all who came from [the man] IsraEl are really [sons of] IsraEl, 7nor are AbraHam’s descendants his only children.  
  
Even though [it’s written],  
  
 ‘That which will be called your descendant will come through IsaAc...’ [Genesis 21:12]  
  
8[IsaAc’s] fleshly children aren’t all of the children of God… For the children of the promise are that descendant.  
  
9Notice the promise that [AbraHam] was given:  
  
 ‘I’ll return at this time and SarAh will have a son.’ [Genesis 18:14]  
  
10And this isn’t the only occasion. For when Rebecca was pregnant with twins from our forefather IsaAc, 11and before they were born or did anything good or bad (just to show that God’s purposes don’t depend on the things we do, but on the One who does the choosing), 12she was told:  
  
 ‘The older will be the younger [one’s] slave.’ [Genesis 25:23]  
  
13And it was written:  
  
 ‘I loved Jacob, but I didn’t care for Esau.’ [Malachi 1:2-3]  
  
14So what can we say?  
  
Is God unjust?  
  
May that never be true!  
  
15But he told Moses:  
  
 ‘I’ll show mercy upon whomever I choose to show mercy, and pity upon whomever I choose to feel pity.’ [Exodus 33:19]  
  
16So it doesn’t depend on the one who does the wishing, nor upon the one who does the running, but on the mercy of God!  
  
17For the Scriptures say that He told the PharaOh:  
  
 ‘The reason why I raised you is so that I can show My powers through you, and to have My Name announced throughout the whole earth!’ [Exodus 9:16, LXX]  
  
18So the [point is this]:  
  
 He shows mercy on whomever He wishes to show mercy,  
 And He hardens [the hearts] of whomever He wishes.  
  
19Therefore, you might ask:  
  
 ‘Then why does [God] find fault with anyone who resists His plans?’  
  
20O man, who are you to question God?  
  
Will the thing that’s made ask its maker,  
  
 ‘Why did you make me like this?’ [possible quote from Isaiah 29:16]  
  
21For isn’t the potter in charge of his clay? And can’t he make one pot for an honorable use, and another for a dishonorable use? [And all] from the same lump [of clay]?  
  
22Therefore, God can choose to show His rage and make His power known through whatever pottery He’s had to endure.  
  
And if He made it for His rage, then it’s only fit to be destroyed!  
  
23But He can also show the richness of His glory upon the pots of mercy that He’s prepared ahead of time for glory… 24Those among us whom He’s called, not just from among the Jews, but also from among the gentiles!  
  
25It’s just like He said in Hosea:  
  
 ‘I’ll call those who aren’t My people, My people,  
 And the one I didn’t love, My loved one.’  
 [Hosea 2:23]  
  
26And:  
  
 ‘In those places where they were told,  
 ‘You’re not My people,’  
 They’ll be called,  
 The Living God’s sons!’  
 [Hosea 1:10]  
  
27Yet, IsaiAh shouted this about IsraEl:  
  
 ‘The people of IsraEl will then grow to be as many as the sands of the seas from the few that survive.’ [Isaiah 10:22-23, LXX]  
  
28For whatever Jehovah has established and decided regarding this land he will carry out!For whatever Jehovah has established and decided regarding this land he will carry out!<sup class="difference">[Syr]  
  
29IsaiAh also prophesied:  
  
 ‘If Jehovah of armies hadn’t left us an offspring,  
 We would’ve become just like Sodom  
 And the same as GomorRah.’  
 [Isaiah 1:9, LXX]  
  
30So this is why we can say that gentiles became righteous (although they weren’t trying to be righteous) with the [kind of] righteousness that comes from faith, 31while IsraEl, which was following a righteous Law, just didn’t make it!  
  
32And why was that so?  
  
Because [IsraEl] didn’t look for it in faith, but in the things that they were doing… They tripped over the ‘stumbling stone.’  
  
33As it’s written:  
  
 ‘{Look!} I’m laying in Zion,  
 A stone... (of stumbling, and a rock of offense [Isaiah 8:14 MS/DSS])  
 And those trusting in him,  
 Will never be shamed.’  
 [Isaiah 28:16, LXX; see note]