

Romans 9:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Analysis

Whose are the fathers—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the patriarchs to whom promises were made. **And of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came** (ex hōn ho Christos to kata sarka, ἐξ ὧν ὁ Χριστὸς τὸ κατὰ σάρκα)—the crowning privilege: Messiah's human lineage traces to Israel. Yet Paul again qualifies: kata sarka, 'according to the flesh'—Christ's human nature derives from Israel, but there's more.

Who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen—this climactic phrase affirms Christ's deity. The grammar allows 'God blessed forever' as independent doxology or descriptive of Christ. Context favors the latter: Christ is ho ōn epi pantōn theos (ὁ ὢν ἐπὶ πάντων θεός), 'the one being over all, God.' Paul's grief makes sense only if Israel rejected one who is himself God incarnate. Mere prophet-rejection wouldn't warrant such anguish.

Historical Context

Christ's Davidic descent was crucial for messianic claims (Matthew 1:1, Luke 3:23-38). Yet early Christian confession insisted Jesus was more than David's son—he is David's Lord (Matthew 22:41-46). Paul's doxology affirms full deity while acknowledging Israel's unique role in salvation history.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's dual nature (God and man, Jewish flesh and divine essence) fulfill covenant promises?
2. Why is Christ's deity essential to Paul's grief over Israel's unbelief?
3. What does it mean that Christ is 'over all'—what is excluded from his sovereignty?

Interlinear Text

ὧν	οἱ	πατέρες	καὶ	ἐξ	ὧν	ὁ	Χριστὸς	τὸ
Whose	G3588	are the fathers	and	of	Whose	G3588	Christ	G3588
G3739		G3962	G2532	G1537	G3739		G5547	
κατὰ	σάρκα·	ὁ	ὧν	ἐπὶ	πάντων	θεὸς		
as concerning	the flesh	G3588	came who	is over	all	God		
G2596	G4561		G5607	G1909	G3956	G2316		
εὐλογητὸς	εἰς	τοὺς	αἰῶνας	ἀμήν				
blessed	for	G3588	ever	Amen				
G2128	G1519		G165	G281				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 1:25 (Blessing): Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

1 John 5:20 (References Christ): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

John 10:30 (Parallel theme): I and my Father are one.

Romans 1:3 (References Christ): Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

1 Timothy 3:16 (References God): And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Isaiah 11:1 (Parallel theme): And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Revelation 22:16 (Parallel theme): I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Psalms 106:48 (Blessing): Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the LORD.