

Romans 9:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

Analysis

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect—Paul anticipates the objection: if Israel rejected Messiah, didn't God's promises fail? His answer: οὐ...ekpeptōken (οὐ...ἐκπέπτωκεν), 'has not fallen away/failed.' God's word stands despite appearances. The crisis isn't God's faithfulness but Israel's identity.

For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel—the pivotal distinction. The first 'Israel' is spiritual (the elect remnant), the second ethnic (physical descendants). Paul uses ex Israēl (ἐξ Ἰσραήλ) for ethnic origin vs. Israēl for true covenant membership. Physical descent never guaranteed salvation—election operated within ethnic Israel all along. Abraham had Ishmael; Isaac had Esau; the principle of divine choice precedes the crisis of unbelief.

Historical Context

Jesus taught this: 'not everyone who says Lord, Lord' enters the kingdom (Matthew 7:21). John the Baptist warned against trusting Abrahamic descent (Matthew 3:9). The prophets spoke of a remnant (Isaiah 10:22). Paul's argument stands on established scriptural principle.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the distinction between ethnic and spiritual Israel apply to visible and invisible church today?
2. What false securities (heritage, baptism, church membership) might we trust instead of Christ?
3. How does the doctrine of the remnant both humble us and assure us?

Interlinear Text

οὐ	οἶν	δὲ	ὅτι	ἐκπέπτωκεν	οἱ	λόγος	οἱ
Not	as	though	G3754	hath taken none effect	which	the word	which
G3756	G3634	G1161		G1601	G3588	G3056	G3588
θεοῦ	οὐ	γὰρ	πάντες	οἱ	ἐξ	Ἰσραὴλ·	οὗτοι
of God	Not	For	all	which	G1537	Israel	G3778
G2316	G3756	G1063	G3956	G3588		G2474	Israel
							G2474

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 6:16 (References God): And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Romans 3:3 (References God): For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

John 1:47 (References Israel): Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and saith of him, Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!

Numbers 23:19 (References God): God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Isaiah 55:11 (Word): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

John 10:35 (Word): If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

2 Timothy 2:13 (Parallel theme): If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.

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