

Facilitator Notes for *Set Free!* – A Study in Romans
Lesson 13 ~ God is God and I'm Not! Romans 9:1-24

**PLEASE DON'T READ THESE NOTES UNTIL YOU HAVE COMPLETED YOUR LESSON.
HEARING GOD FOR YOURSELF IS WAY BETTER THAN MY COMMENTS!**

Questions

Read **Romans 9:1-5**.

1. What situation distressed Paul and how deep were his feelings (**9:1-4a**)?

Despite his great success as a missionary to the Gentiles, as a church planter and a great teacher, Paul feels great sorrow. Most of the Jews, his own people, the chosen people of God, were rejecting the gospel. The Jews should have been the first to recognize the gospel as the promised fulfillment of their scriptures, but they had rejected it or missed it. As a result, they were missing out on salvation and this troubled Paul deeply. His agony was so intense that he was willing to be cut off from Christ if it would bring them to Christ. Paul is not suggesting that this is a possibility – taking the place of someone else – but is saying this to show the depths of his feelings. Knowing Jesus was the most important thing in Paul's life, so he is saying that he would give up what is most important to him if it would save his Jewish brothers and sisters.

2. Who, and over what situation, felt much the same way as Paul did (**Exodus 32:1-6; 30-32**)?

While Moses was on the mountain getting the Law from God, the Israelites got tired of waiting for him and had Aaron make a golden calf that they could worship. (This would have been similar to the idol worship they were exposed to in Egypt.) Out of his great love for the people, Moses asks God to forgive them and shows the depth of his love and sincerity by saying “blot me out of the book (of life)” if that is what it takes to forgive them.

♥ What do these two reactions reveal about the seriousness of a person accepting or rejecting God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ?

Both these incidents show the seriousness and importance of salvation. It shows that it matters for all eternity what we do with Jesus Christ in this life. This is a decision that cannot be reversed after death.

♥ Express how you feel about those you deeply love who have not yet accepted God's gift of salvation.
♥ What sacrifices would you be willing to make to give others a chance to know Christ?

3. If you have sorrow over loved ones who have not yet accepted God's gift of love and salvation, what is your best recourse?

1 Samuel 12:23a - This verse indicates the prayerlessness is a sin; God works through prayer and it is the most important thing we can do for those we love

Luke 18:1 - we need to pray and not give up!

Ephesians 1:16-18 - These verses give us some specific things to pray for a person; spiritual wisdom and understanding, growth in knowledge of God, hearts flooded with God's light and understanding

Romans 12:12 - be hopeful, patient and FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

Colossians 4:2 - Devote yourself to prayer (devote: give all or a large part of one's time or resources to something)

1 Thessalonians 5:17 – pray continually or keep on praying; verses that tell us to keep praying and not give up reveal that praying and asking is not done just once. **More** prayer is **more** effective.

♥ What hope is given when praying for a loved one's salvation (**2 Peter 3:9; 1 John 5:14-15; Mark 11:24**)? God does not want anyone to perish, so when we pray for the salvation of someone we know we are praying according to God's will. A prayer combined with faith (believing that God will answer the prayer) is powerful and effective!

4. What eight privileges and blessings does Paul mention that God gave to the people of Israel (9:4-5)?
1) the adoption into God's family making them God's chosen people; 2) they saw God's glory in the desert and in worship; 3) God made covenants with them; 4) they received God's Law; 5) they received tabernacle or temple worship (how to approach and worship God); 6) Divine promises from God for their nation; 7) they had the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.) to whom God revealed himself and made promises to; 8) through the people of Israel came the Messiah, Savior for all people.

Optional Exercise. God showed Israel great favor as a nation and the blessings listed in 9:4-5 were proof that the Jews were God's chosen people. **Everything God gave Israel, pointed to Christ and prepared the way for him.** It's ironic that the very **reason** these blessings were given became the **very thing** that Israel rejected!

Provide the **name of the blessing** that God gave Israel (9:4-5) beside each **Old Testament description** of the blessing.

Covenants or Divine agreements and promises - Genesis 17:1-8; Jeremiah 31:31-34

God's Law - Nehemiah 9:13-14; adopted as God's children;

God's chosen people - Deut. 7:6; Hosea 11:1

The glory of the Lord seen as a cloud on the mountain and in the desert; (the cloud and pillar of fire led them in the desert) - Exodus 16:6-7,10; 24:15-17

The Patriarchs - Exodus 3:15-16; Deut. 9:5

The ancestry of Christ - Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6

The tabernacle and temple worship - Exodus 25:8-9

The promises of God (given to David) - 2 Samuel 7:8-13

♥ Why do you think many of the Jews of Paul's day rejected God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ in spite of the many privileges and blessings given them as a people of God? What does this reveal about why people still reject Jesus and his gift of salvation?

♥ What advantages do you have because of your religious heritage? What kinds of gifts, blessings and opportunities has God given you that help convince you of his love and truth?

♥ Does your religious heritage determine your acceptance before God? Why or why not?

Our religious heritage can be important and valuable because through it we learn of God and learn how to grow spiritually and relate to God. However, it does not determine our acceptance before God. Each person must make their own decision about Christ, regardless of our heritage (or lack of it). No one can make this decision for another person.

5. Some might say that God having a *chosen people* on whom he lavishes blessings and privileges is *favoritism*. What, however, is the **main reason** God created the nation of Israel (9:5; Genesis 12:1-3)? God told Abraham that he would make a great nation from him and that all the people of the earth would be blessed through him. God created a "chosen people" to provide a Savior from sin that would be for EVERYONE. A certain spiritual environment and race of people were needed, from which the Messiah would be born.

♥ How do God's promises to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:4-8) affect you (Galatians 3:7-9)? How does this make you feel? Do you take these promises seriously?

God's promises to Abraham were for him AND his descendants; Paul tells us that all who believe in the Messiah and are justified by faith become children of Abraham and receive the promise of blessings given to Abraham's descendants.

♥ What important statement is made about the identity of Jesus in 9:5? Why does Paul make this point? Paul slips in the fact that Jesus IS God and worthy of all our praise. Jesus was human, but also God (and therefore sinless). He is the only person in history who could take on our sin and die in our place and pay the penalty of death so that we may receive eternal life.

Read Romans 9:6-13

After considering all of the advantages that Israel had been given, it seems unbelievable that, on the whole, Israel has rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah. Paul knows that there are some who wonder if God has failed to keep his word (9:6). Is Israel a testimony to God's unfaithfulness or his inability to actually do what he has promised? Not at all! Paul explains that from the beginning, God made a distinction between the *physical* and *spiritual* descendents of Abraham. It is to the *spiritual* descendents of Abraham that God made his promises and it is the *spiritual* descendents of Abraham who will receive the fulfillment of God's promises.

6. The first question Paul wants to answer is, "Who are the *spiritual* descendents of Abraham, the *true* children of Abraham?" What is Paul saying in 9:6-8 that agrees with what he already said in 2:28-29?

In **Romans 2:28-29**, Paul says that person isn't a true Jew just because he or she was physically born one. A true Jew is a person whose heart is set apart for God; a true Jew has the Holy Spirit living in them. Paul confirms this in **9:6-8** by showing that all of Abraham's children did not receive the promises of God; only Isaac and his descendants. Thus, not all of Abraham's physical descendents are true children of Abraham and beneficiaries of God's blessings and promises. Rather, it is the person who has accepted Jesus Christ and has the Holy Spirit.

♥ Is a person a Christian just because they are born into a Christian family? Why or why not?

♥ Are God's promises, found in his written Word, for everyone? Why or why not?

God's promises are often conditional; Often there is something required of us in order to receive what is promised. (See box below.)

♥ How do the above questions help you understand what Paul was saying about being a true child of Abraham?

Paul is drawing an analogy here. Just being Abraham's **physical** descendent did not guarantee a **spiritual** inheritance. The line of **natural descent** is not the same as the line of **promise**. Abraham had children by three different women; Isaac by Sarah (**Genesis 21:1-7**); Ishmael by Hagar (**Genesis 16**) and six sons by his second wife Keturah (**Genesis 25:1-4**). But God made it clear that the line of promise would be through Isaac only (**Genesis 21:12**). God made a sovereign choice, before Isaac was born, that his line would result in the Messiah. Just being a descendent of Abraham was not enough to receive the spiritual inheritance – one had to also be of the line of Isaac. So, Paul is saying, just being a Jew by physical descent is not enough to receive the fulfillment of God's promises and be his chosen people. One has to be a child of Abraham in the heart, *believing* those promises, just like Abraham did. As we will see later, this means that both Jews *and* Gentiles can be God's *chosen people*!

7. How does the example given in **9:10-12** further prove Paul's point that all the descendents of Abraham did not receive the *spiritual* inheritance? (You can read more about this story in **Genesis 25:19-34**.)

Paul uses the example of Esau and Jacob to further prove his point that being a physical descendant of Abraham is not enough to receive God's promises. Both Esau and Jacob were sons of Isaac (the line of promise) and Esau was the firstborn which would traditionally make him the recipient of God's blessings given to his father. However, before Esau and Jacob were ever born, God sovereignly chose Jacob to be the descendant of blessing.

So, if someone argues that God has not kept his promises to his chosen people, Paul's answer is that God **HAS** kept his promises – but not all Jews by birth qualify to be God's chosen people. To those who believe (Jew and Gentile), God **HAS** kept his promises.

♥ What reason is given as to why Jacob, the second-born son, received the spiritual inheritance instead of Esau, the firstborn son (**9:11-12**)? **Simply because God decided to do it this way.** Does this seem fair to you? Why or why not?

♥ Can you think of a time when you thought "God's sovereign choice" seemed unfair? What is a proper response to this dilemma?

♥ What are some reasons why we question God's actions toward us or someone else?

Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated (9:13; Malachi 1:2-3) is pretty strong language, especially in view of the fact that God is love! Two things to keep in mind: 1) This is an example of *hyperbole*, a literary device of making an exaggerated statement to make a point, but not meant to be taken literally. Jesus used this device when he said, "If anyone comes to me and does not *hate* his father and mother -- cannot be my disciple" (**Luke 14:26**). Jesus did not literally mean **hate**; he meant that he must come first in our lives, even before our immediate family. 2) When Paul uses the names **Jacob** and **Esau**, he was not speaking of the individuals, but rather the **nations** they represent. In choosing **Jacob** over **Esau**, God illustrated his strong choice of **Israel** (descendants of Isaac and Jacob) over the **Edomites** (descendants of Esau) to play a particular role in history.

Read **Romans 9:14-18**.

8. Is it unfair for God to choose some people to use in a particular way, but not others (**9:14**)? How does Paul answer this question and why does he focus on God's *mercy* rather than his *fairness* (**9:15-16**)?

It is not unfair for God to choose to work one way and not another. God is God and we are not! We are dependent on God for everything and we don't receive his blessing because WE choose it or WE work for it. We exist because God created us and brought us into existence and we are dependent on God for everything – even our next breath.

It is important, however, that Paul focuses on God choosing to show **compassion** and **mercy**. Compassion and mercy means that God is giving something that is NOT deserved. We deserve **judgment** and **condemnation** because we are sinners, but God often chooses to give **compassion** and **mercy** instead. When this happens, we don't think God is being "unfair"! For God to choose ANYONE to work through shows his great **mercy**.

It may help to think of it this way: **God is never unfair; he will not ever short someone their just reward nor will he ever punish someone more than they deserve.** However, God may choose to reward someone MORE than they deserve (grace) or choose to NOT punish someone as much as the deserve (mercy). This is God's prerogative and no one can say this is unfair. This is God's character; for the most part he shows **compassion** and **mercy** that we don't and never will deserve.

- ♥ Does anyone deserve God's mercy and compassion (**3:9, 23**)? See above answer. What should be our attitude when mercy is given to us or anyone else? **Gratitude, thanksgiving, love, praise, worship, surrender!**

Was it "fair" for God to harden Pharaoh's heart (9:17-18)? It is important to see that God never hardens people who have not first hardened themselves. It is plain in the story of the Exodus, that Pharaoh first hardened his own heart against God and refused to humble himself. So, God hardening Pharaoh's heart was fair and just. God was "giving him over" to his own stubbornness (**Romans 1:24, 26, 28**). It is important to guard ourselves against a hardened heart, (because God may give us over to it!) "Hardening" occurs when a person has a track record of disobedience and rebellion. From the human perspective, it is difficult to know exactly at what point God confirms our own (or another's) resistance as hardness. (That is why it is never for us to judge someone's motives. We simply cannot know the heart.) Paul's implicit warning is to avoid attitudes that lead to hardness of heart (1 Cor. 10:6; Hebrews 3:8).

Read **Romans 9:19-24**.

9. In view of God's sovereignty expressed in **9:18**, Paul knows that someone is going to ask, "How can God hold people responsible for the choices *he* (God) makes (**9:19**)? What three questions does Paul ask in order to answer this question (**9:20-21**)?"
- 1) "But what are you, O man, to talk back to God?" or "Who are you, a mere human being, to criticize God?"
 - 2) "Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'" or "Should the thing that was created say to the one who made it, 'Why have you made me like this?'"

3) "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?" or "When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into?"

♥ What is the difference between *questioning God* and *asking God questions*? It is okay to ask God questions! Jesus did it on the cross with "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" The Psalms are full of questions to God and most Biblical characters asked questions of God. Questioning God, however, has the connotation of insinuating that God doesn't know what he is doing. You are questioning his methods or his authority. What attitude is Paul condemning in 9:20? We forget sometimes that God is God (and we aren't). We don't tell God what to do. We don't act like we know more than God or know better than he does. We don't tell him that he made a mistake. We don't hint or suggest that we could have done a better job. These attitudes are disrespectful, proud and arrogant. These attitudes ignore the fact that we are totally dependent on God for EVERYTHING.

10. Read 9:22-24 in the NLT. What three "rights" does God have? Which of these rights does God most exercise? Why?

- 1) God has the right to exercise his judgment and his power
- 2) God has the right to be patient with those who are the objects of his judgment (sinners) and are fit only for destruction.
- 3) God has the right to pour out the riches of his glory upon those he prepared to be the object of his mercy – those whom he has chosen from among both the Jews and the Gentiles.

God most exercises his patience and his mercy (see answer to Question 8). We must remember that God has no obligation to show mercy or compassion to any us – not one of us deserves his slightest concern. For God to choose (call or speak forth) anyone is evidence of his great mercy! We are all objects of his mercy and compassion!

The objects of God's wrath are unbelievers who refuse to accept Jesus. God gives unbelievers time to repent, but those who refuse are "prepared for destruction" (9:22). When they rebelled and refused to turn to God for salvation, they took responsibility for their own destruction.

The objects of God's mercy are true believers, whether Jews or Gentiles, so that no one can claim God by right of birth. Only those who respond to God's call receive the gift of salvation; it is by "invitation only." It comes to us completely undeserved so that we might have no basis for pride. When we truly understand God's mercy, we respond with humility and gratitude.

♥ How have you experienced God's mercy and patience in your life?

Response

Grappling with God's sovereignty (his right to make independent choices without explanation) can sometimes be daunting. We want to trust, but sometimes it just seems so hard to understand what God is doing – and sometimes it seems that what he is doing is so unfair! We want an explanation!

Hundreds of years ago, the prophet Isaiah explained why we don't always get an explanation. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Even if God did try to explain what is going on, more likely than not, we simply would not be able to understand it or be able to grasp the "big picture."

The proper response to this dilemma is *faith*. We live by *faith* and not by *sight* (2 Cor. 5:7). Faith is trusting in God's *character* (who he is) and his *promises* (what he says he will do). *What hard thing in your life, that you don't understand right now, will you trust God with?* Remind yourself of all the times God has been faithful to you in the past. He will be faithful again! You can trust God even if you don't understand!

BELOW IS THE SUPPLEMENTARY SCRIPTURE FOR THIS LESSON THAT CAN BE PRINTED OUT FOR SMALL GROUP TIME.

NIV

Exodus 32:1-6, 30-32 When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

2 Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” **3** So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. **4** He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD.” **6** So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the LORD; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin.” **31**

So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold. **32** But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

1Samuel 12:23 As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. .

Luke 18:1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

Ephesians 1:16-18 I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. **17** I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,

Romans 12:12 Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.

1Thessalonians 5:17 pray continually;

2Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.

1John 5:14 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. **15** And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Genesis 12:1-3 The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you. **2** “I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. **3** I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 17:4-8 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Galatians 3:7-9 Understand, then, that those who believe are children of Abraham. **8** The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: “All nations will be blessed through you.” **9** So those who have faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Romans 2:28-29 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. **29** No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man’s praise is not from men, but from God.

NLT

Exodus 32:1-8, 30-32 When Moses failed to come back down the mountain right away, the people went to Aaron. “Look,” they said, “make us some gods who can lead us. This man Moses, who brought us here from Egypt, has disappeared. We don’t know what has happened to him.”

2 So Aaron said, “Tell your wives and sons and daughters to take off their gold earrings, and then bring them to me.”

3 All the people obeyed Aaron and brought him their gold earrings. **4** Then Aaron took the gold, melted it down, and molded and tooled it into the shape of a calf. The people exclaimed, “O Israel, these are the gods who brought you out of Egypt!” **5** When Aaron saw how excited the people were about it, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the LORD!” **6** So the people got up early the next morning to sacrifice burnt offerings and peace offerings. After this, they celebrated with feasting and drinking, and indulged themselves in pagan revelry.

30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a terrible sin, but I will return to the LORD on the mountain. Perhaps I will be able to obtain forgiveness for you.” **31** So Moses returned to the LORD and said, “Alas, these people have committed a terrible sin. They have made gods of gold for themselves. **32** But now, please forgive their sin—and if not, then blot me out of the record you are keeping.”

1Samuel 12:23 “As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you . . .

Luke 18:1 One day Jesus told his disciples a story to illustrate their need for constant prayer and to show them that they must never give up.

Ephesians 1:16-18 I have never stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, **17** asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. **18** I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the wonderful future he has promised to those he called. I want you to realize what a rich and glorious inheritance he has given to his people.

Romans 12:12 Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful.

Colossians 4:2 Devote yourselves to prayer with an alert mind and a thankful heart.

1Thessalonians 5:17 Keep on praying.

2Peter 3:9 The Lord isn’t really being slow about his promise to return, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so he is giving more time for everyone to repent.

1John 5:14 And we can be confident that he will listen to us whenever we ask him for anything in line with his will. **15** And if we know he is listening when we make our requests, we can be sure that he will give us what we ask for.

Mark 11:24 Listen to me! You can pray for anything, and if you believe, you will have it.

Genesis 12:1-3 Then the LORD told Abram, “Leave your country, your relatives, and your father’s house, and go to the land that I will show you. **2** I will cause you to become the father of a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and I will make you a blessing to others. **3** I will bless those who bless you and curse those who curse you. All the families of the earth will be blessed through you.”

Genesis 17:4-8 “This is my covenant with you: I will make you the father of not just one nation, but a multitude of nations! **5** What’s more, I am changing your name. It will no longer be Abram; now you will be known as Abraham, for you will be the father of many nations. **6** I will give you millions of descendants who will represent many nations. Kings will be among them! **Genesis 17:7** “I will continue this everlasting covenant between us, generation after generation. It will continue between me and your offspring forever. And I will always be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** Yes, I will give all this land of Canaan to you and to your offspring forever. And I will be their God.

Galatians 3:7-9 The real children of Abraham, then, are all those who put their faith in God.

Galatians 3:8 What’s more, the Scriptures looked forward to this time when God would accept the Gentiles, too, on the basis of their faith. God promised this good news to Abraham long ago when he said, “All nations will be blessed through you.” **9** And so it is: All who put their faith in Christ share the same blessing Abraham received because of his faith.

Romans 2:28-29 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the Jewish ceremony of circumcision. **29** No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not a cutting of the body but a change of heart produced by God’s Spirit. Whoever has that kind of change seeks praise from God, not from people.

Scripture for Optional Exercise

Genesis 17:1-8 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to him and said, “I am God Almighty; walk before me and be blameless. **2** I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers.” **3** Abram fell facedown, and God said to him, **4** “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You will be the father of many nations. **5** No longer will you be called Abram; your name will be Abraham, for I have made you a father of many nations. **6** I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. **8** The whole land of Canaan, where you are now an alien, I will give as an everlasting possession to you and your descendants after you; and I will be their God.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34 “The time is coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. **32** It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them,” declares the LORD. **33** “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. **34** No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the LORD. “For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Nehemiah 9:13-14 “You came down on Mount Sinai; you spoke to them from heaven. You gave them regulations and laws that are just and right, and decrees and commands that are good. **14** You made known to them your holy Sabbath and gave them commands, decrees and laws through your servant Moses.

Deuteronomy 7:6 For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

Exodus 16:6-7, 10 So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, **7** and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?”

10 While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

Exodus 24:15-17 When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it, **16** and the glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai. For six days the cloud covered the mountain, and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud. **17** To the Israelites the glory of the LORD looked like a consuming fire on top of the mountain.

Exodus 3:15-16 God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation. **16** “Go, assemble the elders of Israel and say to them, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob—appeared to me and said: I have watched over you and have seen what has been done to you in Egypt.

Deuteronomy 9:5 It is not because of your righteousness or your integrity that you are going in to take possession of their land; but on account of the wickedness of these nations, the LORD your God will drive them out before you, to accomplish what he swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Isaiah 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Jeremiah 23:5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. **6** In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.

Exodus 25:8 “Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. **9** Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you.

2Samuel 7:8-13 “Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. **9** I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men of the earth. **10** And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning **11** and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also give you rest from all your enemies. “The LORD declares to you that the LORD himself will establish a house for you: **12** When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. **13** He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.