# Romans 9:1-15

### Paul’s Anguish over Israel

**1**I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit— **2**I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. **3**For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race, **4**the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. **5**Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised![[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%209:1-15&version=NIV&interface=print" \l "fen-NIV-28161a" \o "See footnote a)] Amen.

### God’s Sovereign Choice

**6**It is not as though God’s word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. **7**Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham’s children. On the contrary, “It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.”[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%209:1-15&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-28163b)] **8**In other words, it is not the children by physical descent who are God’s children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham’s offspring. **9**For this was how the promise was stated: “At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son.”[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%209:1-15&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-28165c)]

**10**Not only that, but Rebekah’s children were conceived at the same time by our father Isaac. **11**Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad—in order that God’s purpose in election might stand: **12**not by works but by him who calls—she was told, “The older will serve the younger.”[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%209:1-15&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-28168d)] **13**Just as it is written: “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.”[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%209:1-15&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-28169e)]

**14**What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! **15**For he says to Moses,

“I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
    and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”[[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans%209:1-15&version=NIV&interface=print#fen-NIV-28171f)]