

LESSON 5.1 (A 9:1-5; A' 11:33-36)

LAMENTS AND PRAISES

^{9:1} I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the **Holy Spirit**, ² that I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were **accursed**, *separated* from Christ for the sake of my brethren, **my kinsmen** according to the flesh, ⁴ who are **Israelites**, to whom belongs the adoption as sons, and the **glory** and the covenants and the giving of the **Torah** and the *temple* service and the promises, ⁵ whose are the fathers, and from whom is the Christ according to the flesh, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

^{11:33} Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? ³⁶ For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him *be* the glory forever. Amen.

Lament to Praises

These two passages act as book ends to the entire section 9-11. Paul begins this passage with a lament upon National Israel, "I have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart," "For I could wish that I myself were accursed . . ."

Let's examine just briefly Psalm 13 (NKJV)

- ¹ How long, O Lord? Will You forget me forever?
How long will You hide Your face from me?
- ² How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
Having sorrow in my heart daily?
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?
- ³ Consider *and* hear me, O Lord my God;
Enlighten my eyes,
Lest I sleep the *sleep of* death;
- ⁴ Lest my enemy say,
"I have prevailed against him";
Lest those who trouble me rejoice when I am moved.
- ⁵ But I have trusted in Your mercy;
My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation.
- ⁶ I will sing to the Lord,
Because He has dealt bountifully with me.

Laments essentially have two elements: the expression of _____ and the expression of faith and assurance that God will come to the _____.

Another comparison, perhaps an even closer one, could be made between Romans 9-11 and Isaiah 6:9-10; .

⁹ He said, "Go, and tell this people:
'Keep on listening, but do not perceive;
Keep on looking, but do not understand.'
¹⁰ "Render the hearts of this people insensitive,
Their ears dull,
And their eyes dim,
Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
Hear with their ears,
Understand with their hearts,
And return and be healed."

And Paul alludes to Isaiah 40;

¹³ Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord,
Or as His counselor has informed Him?
¹⁴ With whom did He consult and *who* gave Him understanding?
And *who* taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge
And informed Him of the way of understanding?

Paul is doing something similar here with these two passages.

The Israel Theme:

This section (9-11) is undoubtedly, narrowly focused on the question of Israel. Therefore, what follows must pertain to "Israel Proper" (By this I mean the natural descendants of Jacob). Let's look at the evidence in the introduction to this section (9:1-5).

"My kinsmen according to the flesh, who are Israelites."

They received from God: _____

They received from God: _____

Theirs _____

From Their line _____

Specific words:

Sorrow: λύπη (G3077) (9:2): _____
Also see 2 Cor. 2:1,3, 7, 7:10, 9:7; & Phil. 2:27 for other Pauline uses of this word
Distress: ὀδύνη (G3601) (9:2): _____

Accursed: ἀνάθεμα (G331) (9:3): _____

Closing Thought:

How Great is our God that he should be mindful of us? Much like the passages found in the Old Testament that give praises to God and the orientation of his ways instilled in the foundations of his creation, Paul too has found a way to work the old laments of Isaiah, the Psalmists, and Jeremiah into the blessings; and he has worked the promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel and more into the work of our Lord and savior. Romans 9-11, I propose is Paul's love letter to his people calling them home to the fulfillment and fullness of YHWH their God in the Kingdom that Christ built. Who do you lament for? Who should we call home?
