



Reading Romans (9:1-11:36)

by Drew Leonard

Introduction . . .

- Paul's central focus has been on whether or not God has been FAITHFUL to His promise(s) made to Abraham (on behalf of all humanity).

Introduction . . .

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1) The TORAH (Rom. 7,8).

2) Ethnic/national ISRAEL (9-11).

Introduction . . .

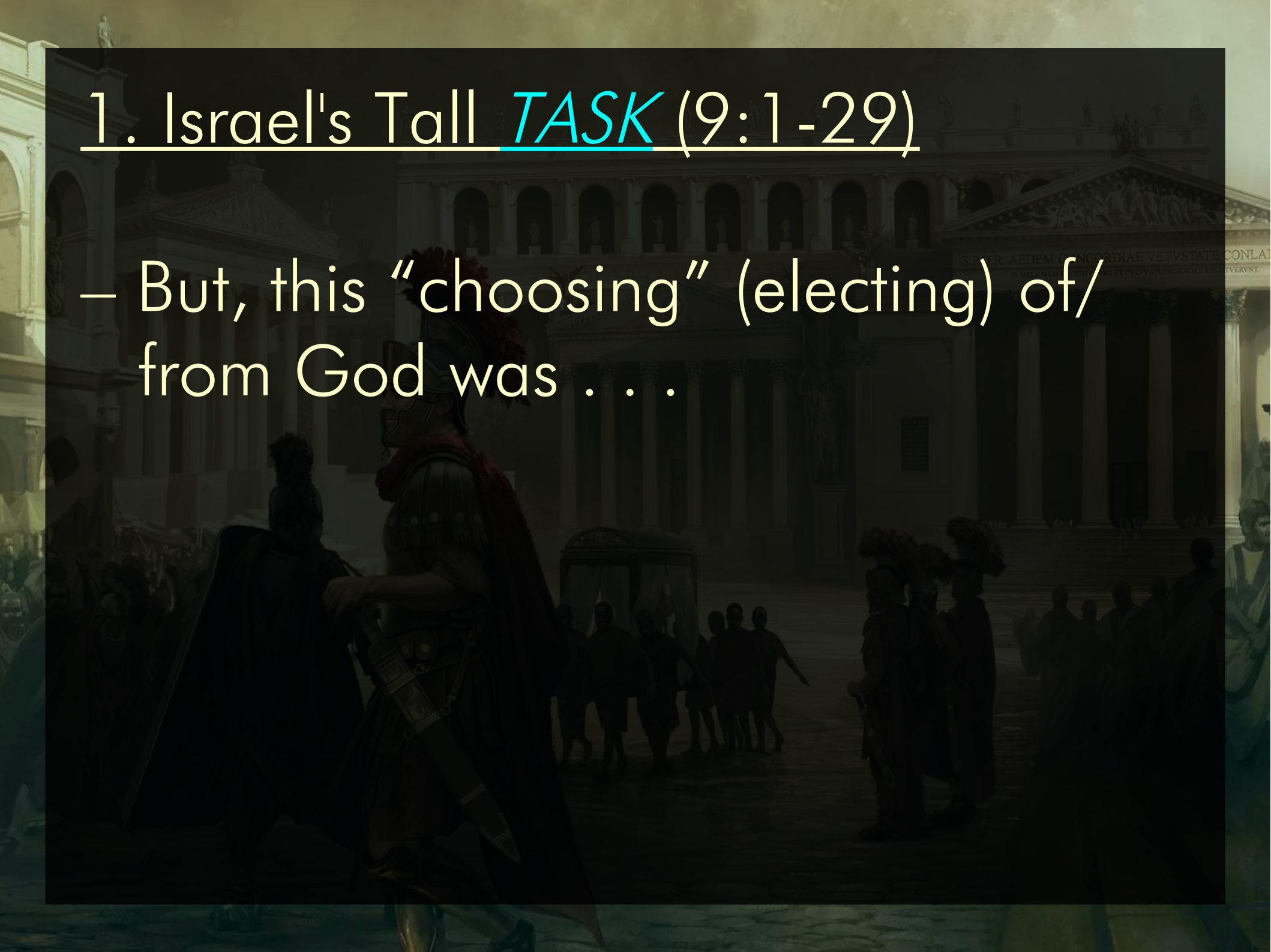
- Here (Rom. 9-11), Paul will restate His major argument (“just. by FAITH”) in specific connection to ethnic Israel and her having been “chosen” (in some sense) as the people of God.

1. Israel's Tall *TASK* (9:1-29)

- It isn't difficult to read the NT (or OT, too) and get the rub that the Jews (generally) looked down their noses at the Gentiles (cf. Rom. 2:17ff.); much of the smugness came from the fact that God *CHOSE* (elected) Israel in a sense!

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- But, this “choosing” (electing) of/ from God was . . .



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from God was . . .

1) NOT because Israel was
EXCEPTIONAL (cf. Deut. 7:6-
11; 9:4-6).

1. Israel's Tall *TASK* (9:1-29)

– But, this “choosing” (electing) of/ from God was . . .

2a) NOT a comment on all Jews' status of *SALVATION* – God chose the nation (as a whole) – He had to choose someone!

1. Israel's Tall *TASK* (9:1-29)

– But, this “choosing” (electing) of/
from God was . . .

2b) God chose the nation for a
TASK/PURPOSE (cf. 9:5,11)!
(similarly, He chose Isaac,
Jacob . . . even Pharaoh!)

1. Israel's Tall *TASK* (9:1-29)

- Specifically, God chose Israel for the specific task/purpose of bringing the *MESSIAH* (cf. Rom. 9:3-5), the source of blessing for the world – after all, some nation/people had to be chosen for this (at the expense of the rest).

2. Israel's Major *MISTAKE* (9:30-10:4)

– Israel's biggest problem, in relation to God's choosing/using her, was that she approached things without *FAITH* (cf. Rom. 9:6-8, 30-32).

* “Faith” needs defined (later).

2. Israel's Major *MISTAKE* (9:30-10:4)

- Israel was seeking “righteousness” (“faithfulness”) but doing such through an incorrect *APPROACH* (9:30-32) – this is NOT altogether different from today's people's seeking “salvation” (a noble desire!) . . .

2. Israel's Major *MISTAKE* (9:30-10:4)

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2. Israel's Major *MISTAKE* (9:30-10:4)

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2) by seeking to establish their *OWN* method (10:3)!

3) without *SUBMITTING*/
submitting one's self to God
(10:3)

2. Israel's Major *MISTAKE* (9:30-10:4)

- If Israel had pursued her noble desire with the right approach, she would've ended up at her *MESSIAH* (cf. 9:30-32; 10:4)!

3. Israel's Actual ACCOMPLISHMENT

– Liking it or not, Israel actually still brought the Christ/Messiah, fulfilling the big task that God chose/elected her for . . .

* See Acts 13:27?!

3. Israel's Actual ACCOMPLISHMENT

– This showed . . .

1) Salvation, even in Moses' day,
was always/actually “by FAITH”
(cf. Rom. 10:5-13, using
Deut. 30:11-14)!

3. Israel's Actual ACCOMPLISHMENT

– This showed . . .

2) Salvation, now, was to be taken directly to GENTILES (cf. Rom. 10:5-21).

3. Israel's Actual ACCOMPLISHMENT

– This whole platform would serve a DUAL purpose, saving Gentiles and also provoking the faithless Israelites/Jews, so . . .

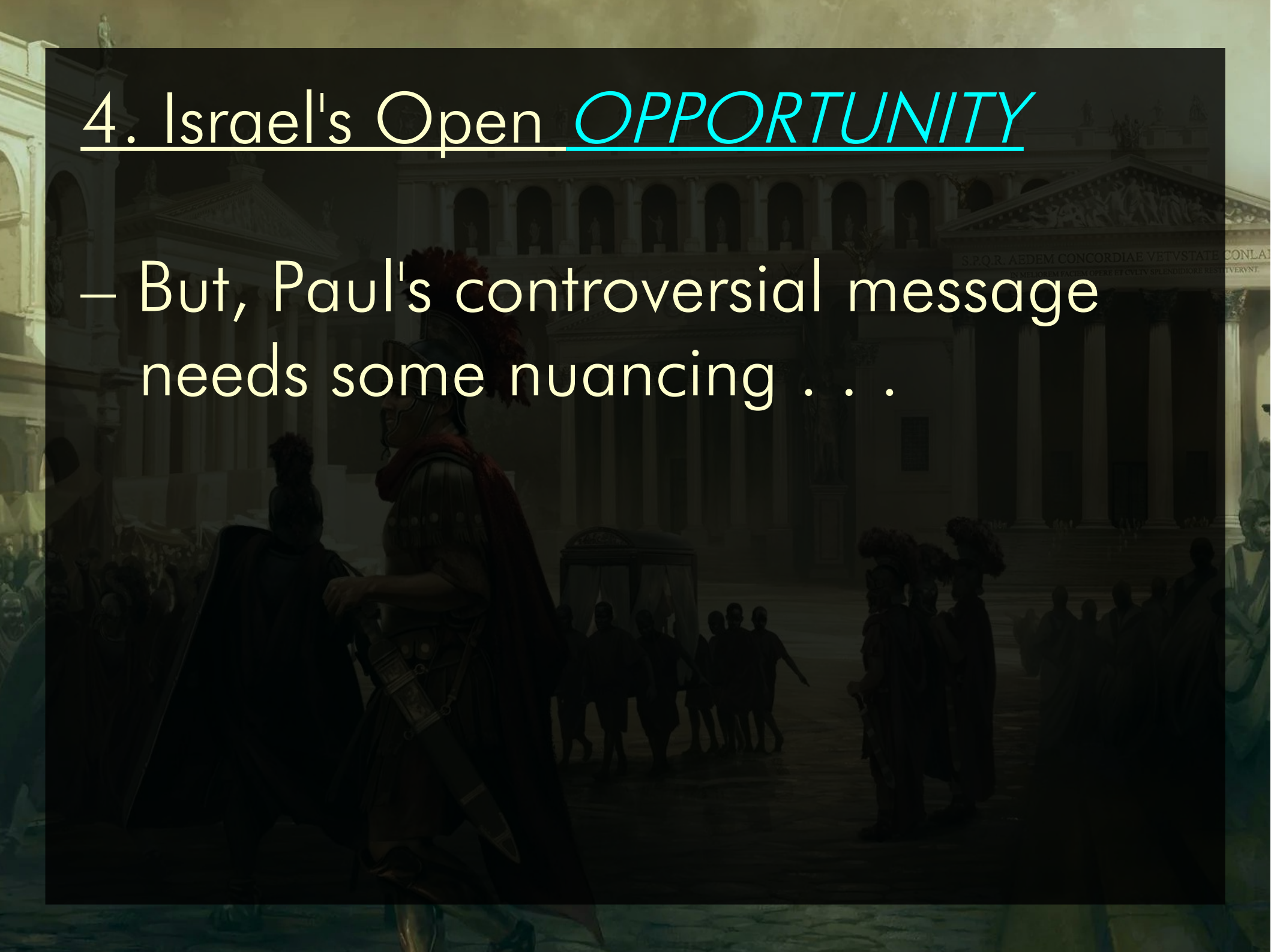
* Now, Romans 11 . . .

4. Israel's Open *OPPORTUNITY*

- Paul has openly insisted that “being a physical Israelite” doesn't comment on one's status of salvation with God (cf. 9:6-8) – it's no shock that he feels like *ELIJAH* (cf. Rom. 11:1-4), alone and depressed!

4. Israel's Open *OPPORTUNITY*

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1) Paul is a physical *JEW* – he doesn't condemn himself, so, he actually extends hope for physical Jews (on another basis)!

4. Israel's Open *OPPORTUNITY*

– But, Paul's controversial message needs some nuancing . . .

2) Paul is NOT being “anti-Semitic”
– He's actually being *PRO*-
Semitic (in the realest sense [cf.
Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1])!

4. Israel's Open *OPPORTUNITY*

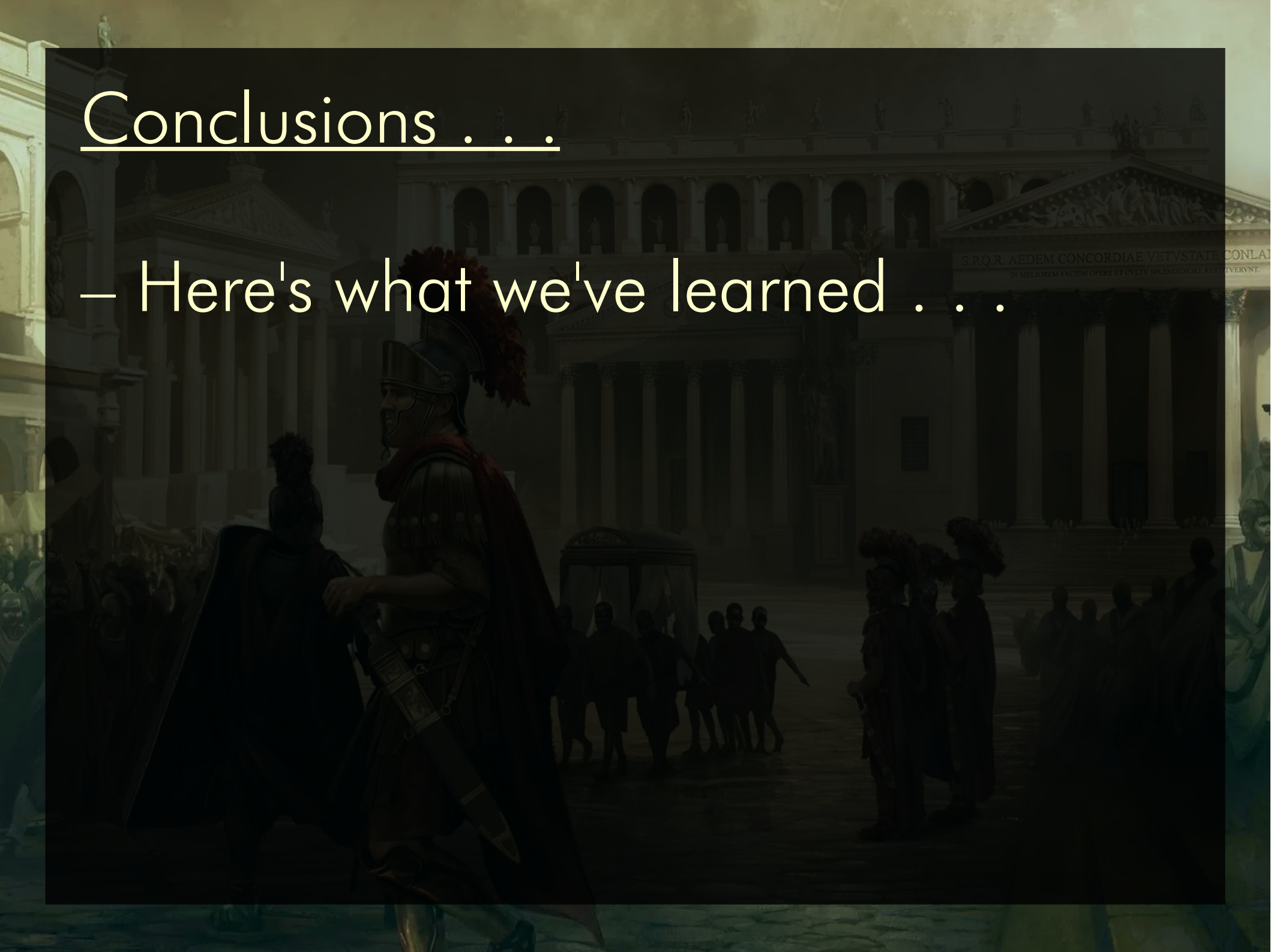
- Using the illustration of “grafting trees/branches,” Paul insists that neither Jews nor Gentiles are “in” on the basis of “nationality” or “ethnicity” but are both given opportunity by *FAITH* in *MESSIAH* (cf. 11:20,23)!

4. Israel's Open *OPPORTUNITY*

- And, that, “faith” (all that's packed into this shorthand/catchword for Paul) is “how” even “all (physical) Israel” can be *SAVED* (cf. 11:26 w/10:4)!

Conclusions . . .

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1) God's “choosing” or “electing” (in this context) has been for TASK/PURPOSE – His “using” physical Israel to bring Christ says nothing of their salvation.

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– Here's what we've learned . . .

2) Salvation has ALWAYS been on the BASIS of FAITH.

Conclusions . . .

– Here's what we've learned . . .

3) Preaching an exclusive salvation in Jesus as the Jewish Messiah is NOT anti-Semitic but pro-Semitic – they're invited in (by faith), too!

Conclusions . . .

- Hear (Rom. 10:17)
- Believe (Rom. 10:9,10)
- Repent (Rom. 2:4,5)
- Confess (Rom. 10:9,10)
- Be Baptized (Rom. 6:1-7)
- Live Faithfully (Rom. 2:13)