Friends of the Chapel Weekly Scripture Study

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

July 26, 2026

Old Testament Reading

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

English Standard Version Scripture Text

6 “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen
you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the
face of the earth. 7 It was not because you were more in number than any other
people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of
all peoples, 8 but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he
swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and
redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.
9 Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps
covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,
to a thousand generations,

Historical Context

Deuteronomy records Moses' final addresses to Israel before entering Canaan. Standing on the plains of Moab after forty years in the wilderness, the new generation hears that God chose Israel not because of its size or strength but because of His covenant love and faithfulness to the promises made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Their identity rests on God's grace, calling them to grateful obedience.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verse 6 – Israel is God's holy people and treasured possession.

Verse 7 – God's choice was based on His love, not Israel's greatness.

Verse 8 – God redeemed Israel because He remained faithful to His covenant.

Verse 9 – The LORD keeps His covenant through all generations.

Theological Themes

- Election by grace
- God's covenant faithfulness

• Redemption

• Holiness as God's people

Epistle Reading

Romans 8:28–39

English Standard Version Scripture Text

28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for
those who are called according to his purpose. 29 For those whom he foreknew he
also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be
the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also
called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he
also glorified.

God’s Everlasting Love

31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
32 He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also
with him graciously give us all things? 33 Who shall bring any charge against God’s
elect? It is God who justifies. 34 Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died
—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is
interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation,
or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? 36 As it is
written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present
nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Historical Context

Romans 8 reaches the climax of Paul's presentation of the gospel. Writing around AD 57, Paul encourages believers facing hardship by assuring them that God's saving purpose cannot fail. From foreknowledge and calling to justification and glorification, Paul celebrates the believer's security and concludes that nothing can separate God's people from His love in Christ.

Verse-by-Verse Exegetical Commentary

Verses 28–30 – God works through every circumstance for His redemptive purpose.

Verses 31–34 – No accusation can stand against those whom God has justified.

Verses 35–37 – Suffering cannot separate believers from Christ's love.

Verses 38–39 – Nothing in creation can separate us from God's love in Christ.

Theological Themes

- God's sovereign purpose
- Assurance of salvation
- Victory through Christ
- The inseparable love of God

Concluding Reflection

Moses reminds Israel that they belong to God because of His covenant love, while Paul assures Christians that the same faithful God keeps them securely in Christ. Our confidence rests not in ourselves but in the steadfast love of the God who calls, redeems, and preserves His people.

Thoughts for Consideration

1. Why does Moses emphasize God's love rather than Israel's greatness?

2. How does God's covenant faithfulness strengthen your faith?

3. What does Romans 8:28 promise—and what does it not promise?

4. Which verse in Romans 8:31–39 most encourages you?

5. How does God's inseparable love shape your response to hardship?