

Romans 9.5

^{NET} "To them belong the patriarchs, and from them, by human descent, came the Christ, who is God over all, blessed forever! Amen."

^{RSV} "to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ. God who is over all be blessed for ever. Amen."

J. Schneider:

Rom. 9.5 is disputed. After Paul has expounded the position of Israel in salvation history and has emphasized as an especial advantage the fact that Christ according to the flesh, stems from this people, he adds a relative clause, which runs lit. "who is over all God blessed for ever. Amen." Even so, Christ would not be equated absolutely with God, but only described as a being of divine nature, for the word *theos* has no article. But this ascription of majesty does not occur anywhere else in Paul. The much more probable explanation is that the statement is a doxology directed to God, stemming from Jewish tradition and adopted by Paul. Overwhelmed by God's dealings with Israel, Paul concludes with an ascription of praise to God. The translation would then read, "The one who is God over all be blessed for ever. Amen." or alternatively, "God who is over all be blessed for ever. Amen."¹

¹ J. Schneider, "God" in *The New International Dictionary of New Testament Theology*, vol. 2, ed. Colin Brown, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1976), p. 80.