

The Sovereign Mercy of God – Romans 9



MEMORY VERSE: “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence; and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame.”
Romans 9:33

DAY 1 ROMANS 9:1-5 — Paul’s Anguish for the Jews

1. For whom did Paul have such great sorrow? vv.1-4a

Acts 28:26-30

2. What did he wish he could do for his people? Do you think getting that wish would actually help his fellow Jews? Why or why not?

3. Why do you think Paul was so insistent that he was not lying about his grief over Israel?

Acts 22:17-21

Acts 23:12

4. What advantages did the Israelites, the Jews, have? vv.4-5

5. Why do you think there is a tendency to become dull to the truth when surrounded by blessings?

DAY 2 ROMANS 9:6-13 — Flesh vs. Promise

6. What is true of the individual descendants in the nation of Israel? vv. 6-9

7. How do the following verses help explain the difference between children of the flesh vs. promise?
Genesis 16:1-4

LEARN THE TRUTH

God chose the nation of Israel to be His special people through whom He would reveal Himself to the world. In spite of their many blessings, the Jews rejected Jesus Christ, the Messiah and a fellow Jew. The nation of Israel proved that salvation comes only through belief in Jesus Christ, not in ancestry.

Genesis 17:15-21

Genesis 21:1-7

Galatians 4:21-31

8. How does the description of Rebekah and Isaac's sons, Jacob and Esau, reinforce the idea of being chosen, or children of the promise? vv.10-13
9. Given this background, what then do you think it means that God "loved" Jacob but "hated" Esau?

DAY 3 ROMANS 9:14-24 — God's Abundant Sovereign Mercy

10. Why is there no injustice on God's part in electing, or choosing certain people? vv.14-16
11. How do the following verses confirm God's sovereign character of both justice and mercy?
John 3:16-17
Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23
12. God continually hardened Pharaoh's heart against the Jews (Exodus chapters 3-14). What was God's purpose in raising Pharaoh up? vv.17-18
13. What is the human line of reasoning behind the question in verse 19?
14. What points does Paul make in answer to that presumptuous way of thinking? vv.20-24

DAY 4 ROMANS 9:25-29 — Sons of the Living God

15. Who are the "vessels of mercy" (see vv.23-24), and what did Hosea prophesy about them? vv.25-26
16. According to the dictionary, what is a remnant?

17. What will happen to the remnant of Israel and what will happen to the rest of Israel? vv.27-28

18. Remembering that God is all good, knowing, wise and wants everyone to be saved, how do you imagine that this scenario could actually be in everyone's best interest?

19. God wiped out Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19:23-29). What do the following verses tell you about God's "patience" with vessels of wrath?
Genesis 13:13

Genesis 14:8-16

20. How do you see God rescuing and blessing people today who respond by despising Him?

DAY 5 ROMANS 9:30-33 – The Rock in Zion

21. What have the Gentiles attained? How?

22. What has Israel failed to attain? Why

23. Verses 32 and 33 are a description of Jesus Christ. How is He described?

24. How do these verses enlarge your view of this Rock in Zion?
Ps. 18:1-2

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

1 Peter 2:6-8

25. Why do you think some people stumble over the Rock, while others trust in Him and will never be put to shame?

LOVE THE TRUTH

Is your heart hard, or is it soft towards God? It is easy to take for granted the blessings God has given us through Jesus. Hard hearted people will always find fault with God and with life, while the soft hearted find joy, freedom and forgiveness. Praise God for His never-ending abundant mercy.

Romans 9

The Sovereign Mercy of God

Paul was griefstricken that his own people, the Jews, had rejected Jesus Christ, the Messiah about whom the prophets spoke throughout their history. God chose the Jews to be His special people but their hard hearts prevented them from truly loving Him. They went on to reject Paul when he realized that Jesus was indeed the long awaited Christ, the Savior of the world. When Paul believed in Jesus, the Jews set out to kill him, saying they would not rest until Paul was dead.

Romans 9-11 is vital for understanding God's purpose both for Israel and for all mankind. He chose to reveal Himself and His plan for salvation for any who would believe through Israel. God's love and care for Israel was obvious. He guided and protected them. To Israel He gave promises, the patriarchs, His commandments, covenants, law and hope. Anyone could look at Israel and see that they were a special people loved by the Almighty God and choose to follow the God of Israel. Instead of receiving the blessings of God and loving Him wholeheartedly, most Jews felt entitled, and relied on their ancestry rather than God's mercy.

God's purpose is for mankind to understand that salvation is through faith, not works. He has a way of turning everything upside down to open our eyes. The natural ancestors of Abraham were not necessarily children of God's promise, while those outside of the lineage of the Jews could be children of the promise by faith. Likewise, a family blessing would have been expected to pass through the first born son, Esau, but instead it went through the second son, Jacob. God obviously loved both Jacob and Esau because He created them both in His own image (Genesis 9:6). But in the bigger picture, He "hated" Esau and "loved" Jacob. God hates the lie that birth order, ancestry or good works can be a means to salvation. He loves simple faith in Christ. Without God's mercy, everyone is doomed because of sin. (Romans 6:23)

God stands outside of time and knows who will reject Him, yet He is patient with these "vessels of wrath, prepared for destruction." God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah because they were filthy and defiant of God, yet Abraham and his men rescued them and restored their possessions when they had been defeated in battle. Sodom and Gomorrah could have repented and embraced God because of His kindness but chose to continue living for pleasure. (Genesis 13:13; 14:8-16) Likewise, Pharaoh enjoyed privilege, power and wealth, yet steadfastly had a hard heart. God accomplished His purpose of delivering the Jews through hard-hearted Pharaoh.

WALK IN TRUTH



Do you realize that Abram was nothing special when God called him? He was not "Jewish" as "Israel" did not exist. Abram was just a man living in a godless society who left his people to follow God when He called. In spite of his surroundings, He was receptive to God. God gives us free will to choose whether we will be hard hearted or soft hearted and surrendered to God. He will use either to accomplish His purpose. Do God's methods concern you? Beware lest you think you care more about the lost than does God who made them. Our mercy cannot begin to compare to God's mercy. He saved us through Christ and set our feet on solid ground- the Rock of Christ. He tells us to build our house, our lives, upon the foundation of Christ rather than on the shifting sands of worldly thinking. This Rock is offensive to the hard hearted, causing them to stumble, but we who hope in Him will not be put to shame when we stand before God. (Ps 40:2; Mt 7:24)