

UNBELIEVING ISRAEL – PART 3

ROMANS 9:14-33

I. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS v. 14-18

- The fact that God chose one and not the other seems to indicate that He is unrighteous. To this charge Paul replies, *“God forbid!”*
- Divine election: God’s perfect choosing is always a matter of grace. If God acted only on the basis of perfect righteousness, nobody would ever be saved.
- **MOSES & PHARAOH EX. 9, 33; PS. 103, 106, 136**

WHAT IS THIS HARDENING?

Hardens is from the Greek *skleôrunoô*, which literally means to make hard, and metaphorically means to render stubborn and obstinate. Or, ***confirm that which is the true nature of something.***

- Just as clay without water is hard, so Pharaoh's heart was already hard. God simply pulled the living water out and made it become what it really was . . . no more pretending that it was soft!

II. GOD'S JUSTICE **ROM. 9:19-29**

*God's sovereign will seems to create a new problem:
If God is sovereign, then who can resist Him?*

- And if one does resist Him, what right does He have to judge? Paul gives three answers to this charge.
 1. Who are we to argue with God? **v. 19-21**
 2. God has His divine purposes for everything.
v. 22-24
 3. All of this was prophesied in God's Word. **v. 25-29**

CASE IN POINT: HOSEA AND ISAIAH

Paul uses these two prophets to show that Israel's unbelief and rejection of the Messiah and His gospel fit exactly with what the prophets had predicted.

- Gomer's moral unfaithfulness to Hosea provided a vivid analogy to Israel's spiritual unfaithfulness to God.
- Israel as a nation still largely rejects her Messiah and is ***not yet*** again the people of God—even though He has chosen them! ***Hosea and Isaiah***—same story!

III. GOD'S AMAZING GRACE *ROM. 9:30-33*

Paul moved next from divine sovereignty to human responsibility. Note that Paul did not say “elect” and “non-elect.”

- Notice he does not say you are on God's saved list or on some other list of the damned automatically, but rather emphasized the role of ***FAITH—CHOICE, and BELIEF.***
- We are saved by grace through faith. ***EPH. 2:8-9***

A DIVINE PARADOX

SALVATION IS NOT SOVEREIGN-APPOINTING ALONE.

- The Jews sought for righteousness, but did not find it; while the Gentiles, who were not searching for it, found it!
- They rejected “free-gift-of-grace righteousness” and tried to please God with “works-of-the-law righteousness.”

God is still faithful, righteous, just, and gracious; and He can be and is perfectly all of those at once.