

Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility Part Two.

Paul's first illustration of God's sovereign choice is Abraham and his children.

Romans 9:7-9 Being descendants of Abraham doesn't make them truly Abraham's children. For the Scriptures say, "Isaac is the son through whom your descendants will be counted,"^[a] though Abraham had other children, too. ⁸This means that Abraham's physical descendants are not necessarily children of God. Only the children of the promise are considered to be Abraham's children. ⁹For God had promised, "I will return about this time next year, and Sarah will have a son." (NLT)

Paul's Second illustration of God's sovereign choice is Jacob and Esau.

Romans 9:10-13 And not only *this*, but when Rebecca also had conceived by one man, *even* by our father Isaac ¹¹(for *the children* not yet being born, nor having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works but of Him who calls), ¹²it was said to her, "The older shall serve the younger." ¹³As it is written, "Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated." (NKJ)

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1) Is God righteous, that is, just?

Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! (NKJ)

2) God has the right to be merciful and just.

Romans 9:15-18 For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion." ¹⁶So then *it is* not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. ¹⁷For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth." ¹⁸Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. (NKJ)

Exodus 33:18-19 And he said, "Please, show me Your glory." ¹⁹Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." (NKJ)

3) God has the right to do as He wills.

Romans 9:19-21 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" ²⁰But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed *it*, "Why have you made me like this?" ²¹Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? (NKJ)

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward ^[a]us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (NKJ)