

God Has the Right to Do as He Wills.

1) God has the right to put up with evil unbelievers.

Romans 9:22-24 *What* if God, wanting to show *His* wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, ²³ and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, ²⁴ even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? (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)

James 1:13 Let no one say when he is tempted, “I am tempted by God”; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. (NKJ)

John 3:16-18 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷ For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. ¹⁸ “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (NKJ)

Romans 3:10 As it is written: “There is none righteous, no, not one; (NKJ)

Ephesians 2:8-9 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast. (NKJ)

God has identified *the chosen* long ago in prophecy.

Romans 9:25-26 As He says also in Hosea: “I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.” ²⁶ “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You *are* not My people,’ There they shall be called sons of the living God.” (NKJ)

But the Jews (here called Israel) will not be forgotten.

Romans 9:27-29 Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved. ²⁸ For the Lord will carry out his sentence on earth with speed and finality.”^[a] ²⁹ It is just as Isaiah said previously: “Unless the Lord Almighty had left us descendants, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah.” (NIV)

The gospel was preached to both Jews and Gentiles, but it was being accepted by far more Gentiles than Jews.

Romans 9:30 What does all this mean? Even though the Gentiles were not trying to follow God’s standards, they were made right with God. And it was by faith that this took place. (NLT)

In contrast to the Gentiles, the Jews tried to get right with God by keeping the law, only to fail.

Romans 9:31-32 But the people of Israel, who tried so hard to get right with God by keeping the law, never succeeded. ³² Why not? Because they were trying to get right with God by keeping the law^[a] instead of by trusting in him. They stumbled over the great rock in their path. (NLT)