

Exodus 19:3-6- 3And Moses went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: 4‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to Myself. 5Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. 6And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

In this passage we see God’s purpose in redeeming His people showing us two primary objectives of redemption. This is for Israel yet also for us.

1. *His first purpose of saving us, bringing His redeemed people into a direct and personal relationship with Him.*
2. **The second purpose of redemption is for God to make the saved into His own treasured possession. This indicates that God desires to make us something personal and special to Him.** *This is a beautiful truth that highlights God’s purposeful plan for His people. We are His special treasure, this is why He redeemed us. Deuteronomy 32:9a-9For the Lord’s portion is His people; God’s purpose centers on His redeemed people. We are His portion, created for His purposes and His glory. His inheritance includes all His people Jew and Gentile.*

His ultimate goal is not only to redeem individuals, it is also the creation of a unique and special people, a unified expression, not a singular one. *Contemporary Christianity places most of the emphasis on the individual and his or her personal relationship with God. Though this is important the final objective of God is not just redeemed individuals. His goal is a special people.* **We see God’s heart to have His people who are His special treasure carry the identity of a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**

Romans 9:6-33 (NKJV) 6 But it is not that the word of God has taken no effect. For they [are] not all Israel who [are] of Israel, 7 nor [are they] all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.” 8 That is, those who [are] the children of the flesh, these [are] not the children of God; but the children of the promise are counted as the seed.

9 For this [is] the word of promise: “At this time I will come and Sarah shall have a son.” 10 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), 12 it was said to her, “The older shall serve the younger.” 13 As it is written, “Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.”

Paul describes people who though they are descendants of Israel, are not among the people who embrace the promise of God. Just because they are of the bloodline of Abraham does not mean they are all of the faith of Abraham. Fleshly descent does not determine the path of blessing from God. Only those who embrace God's promises by faith in Jesus Christ become the children of promise.

I. Election and Predestination

The word election in scripture bothers/confuses a lot of people, but it shouldn't. The word translated election in Romans, 9:11 reveals God's powerful and gracious act of selecting people through whom He wills to work out his redemptive purposes in the world.

- It's important to know that **God is calling out a people for Himself.** He chose a nation to have relationship with Himself and reveal Himself to and through.
- **Jacob, or Israel represents the nation through whom God would work.** God in His sovereignty and wisdom chooses who He wills to accomplish His purpose yet has opened the door of saving grace to every individual who will call upon his name.
- **Before Jacob and Esau were born, before there was even the opportunity to do good or evil. God had selected Jacob/Israel as a nation to inherit his promises. The rejection of Esau is related to the divine choice of a nation through whom the blessings of God could flow.** Esau being the first born, should have inherited the promises but God chose Jacob. We are to-trust the wisdom of God in His divine selection and trust His plan.

Derek Prince states "*I believe there's a greater imbalance in ignoring God's sovereignty and divine choice then there is an overemphasizing it. Part of the issue with contemporary Christianity is due to the fact that we do not realize the divine eternal origin of our salvation. We are Christian's not because we chose God, but because God chose us.*" **"Salvation depends on the decision God has already made and any decision we make is merely a response.** Understand this truth about God, He never endorses or blesses any decision that He himself has not initiated. When looking at the apostles we need to understand. Jesus made the choice they didn't, and this principle applies to all believers whom God calls into his service". **John 15:16** (NKJV) "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Ephesians 1:4-6 4just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, 5having **predestined** us to **adoption** as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved.

Predestination-A Biblical teaching that has been what I believe to be very misunderstood. There are some that believe God has predestined some to hell and some to heaven, that God has made up His sovereign choice beforehand. I don't believe Biblically that this position can stand.

***Jack Hayford-** Predestination is the Biblical teaching that declares the sovereignty of God over human beings in such a way that the freedom of the human will is also preserved. God's predestination of human events does not eliminate human choice. A thorough understanding of how God can maintain His sovereignty and still allow human freedoms seems to be reserved for His infinite mind alone.*

God chose to establish a people of His own.

1. He chose to create a group through whom He can work out His eternal plan.
2. **Paul focuses on the plural "us" in this text hinting at the fact that individual election is not the issue here.** God takes pleasure in enabling everyone to have the opportunity to enter into the elect community of God's people by faith.
3. The point of being the chosen ones is to be holy and blameless. **God excludes no one from the opportunity to believe.** 2Peter 3:9- The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.
4. **Some refer to the elect or chosen as if God has pre-determined some to be saved and some to be damned.** The Bible here is referring to God's gracious choice to have a group of people through whom the message and ministry of salvation may come. The individual is not in view. God calls the church the chosen ones!

Romans 9:14 What shall we say then? [Is there] unrighteousness with God? Certainly not! 15 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." 16 So then [it is] not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy. 17 For 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." 18 Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens. 19 You will say to me then, "Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?" 20 But 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?" 21 Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor? 22 [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? 25 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.” 27 Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved. 28 For He will finish the work and cut [it] short in righteousness, Because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.” 29 And as Isaiah said before: “Unless the LORD of Sabaoth (*sab-a-oth*) had left us a seed, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah.”

I. **Mercy** (this lens will help you see more clearly)

Paul introduces us to the theme of God’s mercy. This is going to be the connecting theme for the three chapters describing Israel (Rom. 9-11). Paul is presenting God’s gracious mercy extended through his elect people to bring forth His presence on earth. We are intended to see the grace and mercy of God and be thankful we are recipients!

- Paul asks the question-is there unrighteousness with God which he quickly answers certainly not! **We can be certain that however God has chosen to reveal His mercy is the best choice.**
- **God’s election was made to provide us with mercy, not pour out justice.** God provided the nation of Israel to be a conduit of mercy to all the nations. It is the very nature of God to provide mercy according to Paul
- Exodus 33:19 (NKJV) Then 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.”
- **God’s mercy is not based upon the work and will of man, but upon His own character and nature.** Again, it is not man’s work that earned salvation. It is only by the mercy and grace of God when we put our faith in Jesus Christ. Anything less than the work of God to provide salvation Leaves humanity in a horrible state. **Nothing we can do will ever merit the mercy of God. It’s His nature to be merciful, so any charges of injustice on the part of God are ridiculous.**
- James 2:13b Mercy triumphs over judgment.

God’s purpose for mercy is shown in the person of Pharaoh who is often associated with the judgment of God. Paul associates Pharaoh with the provision of the mercy of God and takes the time to show us the power exhibited by God through pharaoh is for the salvation of captive Israel. **The power and mercy of God’s name is seen in the miraculous deliverance of Israel and the destruction of those who threatened her existence as the people whom through God would work.**

Pharaoh is an example how God will use even those who reject Him and harden their hearts to His will.

Exodus 14:4 ⁴ I will harden (make stubborn, defiant) Pharaoh's heart, so that he will pursue them; and I will be glorified *and* honored through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians shall know [without any doubt] *and* acknowledge that I am the Lord." And they did so.

One might say how could God do this horrible thing to Pharaoh when what we should say is "isn't God's plan wonderful and beyond my natural understanding. If you take the time to study God's dealing with Pharaoh you will see that his heart grew hard through the continual rejection of God's plan and ultimately God hardened pharaoh heart **not against his will** and ultimately used Him as a conduit that would **reveal His mercy** toward His firstborn Israel. **Rom. 9:17** For 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."

In a similar fashion, God has used the hardness of Israel's heart to bring a revelation of his mercy to the Gentiles.

I. **For His glory**

God is free to use any means He deems necessary to show mercy to humanity. He is the Potter who has power over the clay, and from the same lump will make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor. We need to be reminded He's not going against the longing and will of an individual He ultimately is giving people the desire of their heart, even if it is to reject him for all eternity. God's ultimate desire is to pour out mercy not wrath. Jesus Christ paid for the fullness of the penalty of sin in order that we through faith in him would be recipients of mercy.

22 [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,

- Israel constantly sins against the Lord and developed a stubborn heart ultimately rejecting as a whole Jesus as Messiah, but *God uses their stubbornness to reach the gentiles while still preserving the remnant of those in Israel, who had personal faith.*
- **God is not finished with Israel.** He has had a plan with them all along to reveal His long-suffering love, eternal covenant, and willingness to pour out mercy over judgment.
- **God used Israel to bring revelation of His love to all nations yet the majority of Israel has rejected Jesus Christ as the Messiah.** This incredible God and Father will not let Israel go on forever in this hardened state. **His glorious plan is to use Gentiles to awaken Israel's hardness and open the eyes of their heart to see and believe in Jesus Christ.**

Romans 11:25 (NKJV) For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.