

Romans 9

Jesus

Romans 8:38 ...I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul is persuaded he is **secure in His Fathers lap...**
Nothing ... shall be able to separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord

- **Promises to all God's kids...**

1. If God is for me, who can be against me?
2. If God did not spare His own Son for me...Wont He freely give me all things?
3. Who can charge against me? Who can condemn me? **A. No one**

Picture Paul penning Romans...Relishing/Bathing in God's Promises
Can't help thinking of his fellow Israelites who are rejecting Jesus to their own demise...

I. Sorrow of the Apostle

1 I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, 2 that **I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart...**

- **Ch's 9-11** linked together re. Jews

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved.... **11** For the Scripture says, "**Whoever believes** on Him will not be put to shame." 12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him. 13 For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ... **21** But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a **disobedient and contrary** people."

- **Not lying?** To those who might say Paul against Jews
- **Broken Heart:** Great Sorrow/Continual Grief

How far was Paul willing to go to see fellow Jews saved?

3 For I could **wish that I myself were accursed from Christ** for my brethren [relatives]...

- **Anathema:** Doomed to destruction
- **Accursed:** Paul's desire for those preaching different Gospel

Galatians 1:8 ...even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be **accursed**. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be **accursed**.

- Paul **could wish** but would not go so far as **to wish**. Yet...
- Paul would give up **all he could** for the sake of his brethren...**would we?**

This great passion for souls gave Paul perspective. Lesser things did not trouble him because he was troubled by a great thing – the souls of men. Get love for the souls of men

– then you will not be whining about a dead dog, or a sick cat, or about the quirks of a family, and the little disturbances that John and Mary may make by their idle talk. You will be delivered from petty worries if you are concerned about the souls of men... Get your soul full of a **great grief**, and your **little griefs will be driven out.**" [Spurgeon]

Exodus 32:30 [Moses had this heart] ... Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. So now I will go up to the Lord; **perhaps I can make atonement** for your sin." 31 Then Moses returned to the Lord and said, "Oh, these people have committed a great sin, and have made for themselves a god of gold! 32 Yet now, if You will forgive their sin—but if not, I pray, **blot me out of Your book** which You have written."

Heart of God for the souls of men
Moses, Paul and Jesus...Cursed by/Separated from Father **for our sakes**

- **Paul sorrowed greatly and continually...**Why?

Jesus did not die to save us from annihilation...Jesus died to save us from hell.
This is serious. This is eternal. This is everything

- Paul would do anything possible to save them...

3b... [They are...] my countrymen according to the flesh, 4 who are Israelites, to whom **pertain the adoption**, the **glory**, the **covenants**, the giving of the law, the service of God, and the promises...

- **Adoption:** Abraham, Isaac, Jacob [Israel] and 12 Sons the 12 Tribes

Exodus 4:22 ... [Nation adopted by God] **"Israel [Jacob] is My son, My firstborn".**

- **Shekinah Glory:** Led in Desert/Rested over Tabernacle/Filled Temple
- **Covenants:** Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic
- **Law/Priesthood**
- **Promises...** Jewish Messiah sitting on seat of David in Promised Land

5... of whom are the fathers and from whom, according to the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, the **eternally blessed God**. Amen.

- **Christ the Eternally Blessed God:** Jesus is God come to earth in the Flesh.

456 Prophecies Regarding Jesus in Jewish OT

- Chances of **8** fulfilled 1:10¹⁷
- Chances of **48** fulfilled 1:10¹⁵⁷
- Chances of **456** fulfilled 1:10^{???}

Every Page of the OT speaks of Jesus...

Hebrews 10:7 'Behold, I have come— **In the volume of the book it is written of Me—**
To do Your will, O God.'

How did they miss Him? How could they Crucify Him?

Paul's Great Sorrow and Continual Grief. Yet Paul a learned Jew missed Him. How?

Salvation is not an intellectual pursuit... Answered questions will not save a soul

Only Godly Repentance...Reason J the B was sent to Israel...

Matthew 21:23 Now when [Jesus] came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "**By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?**" 24 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: **25 The baptism of John—where was it from?** From heaven or from men?" And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?'" 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "**Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.**"

- **John's baptism:** Repent and turn to Jesus
 1. Self-righteous have no felt need to repent thus...
 2. No need to turn to Jesus the Savior thus logically **No Salvation**

SUMMARY Sorrow of the Apostle: Knew what to do but chose not to...

II. Children of the Promise

6 But it is not that the **word of God** has taken no effect.

- **Established:** God cannot lie

Numbers 23:19 "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"

Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall **not return to Me void**, But...shall accomplish what I please And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Don't think God's Promise to Israel has been Broken...

6b... 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.

Not all from Israel are Israel?

- **Israel:** Lit. Governed by God
 1. Not Israel because they were born in the Nation of Israel
 2. Not Israel because they are physical descendant of Abraham just as...
 3. Not everyone who calls themselves a Christian is Christian

Children of the Flesh are not Children of God...no matter where they're from
Children of the Promise [Faith] are the children of God

- **Isaac:** Prototype Child of Promise; i.e., Born came from act of faith not work of flesh

9 For this is the word of promise: [God said to Abraham...] "At this time I will come and **Sarah shall have a son.**"

- Jesus and 2 Angels show up at Abraham's tent...

Genesis 18:10 And [Jesus] said, "I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, **Sarah your wife shall have a son.**" [Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.] 11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. 12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, "After I have grown old, **shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?**" 13 And the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son." 15 But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. And He said, "**No, but you did laugh!**"

Hebrews 11:11 By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him **faithful who had promised.** 12 Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude—innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore.

- **Abraham had two sons...**
 1. **Ishmael:** Son of Flesh. Result of not waiting on God
 2. **Isaac:** lit. Laughter. **Son of God's promise...**
- **Isaac also had two sons:** Twins Jacob and Esau

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 [Mal. 1:2], "**Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.**"

- **Abraham had two sons from two women:** One son of promise/One son of flesh
- Isaac had **two twin sons from one woman...**

God loved one loved/hated other. Why?
Why did He love Jacob?

1. Children not yet born
 2. Did no good or evil
- **Abraham example:** Ishmael from Abe/Sarah disobedience makes sense as flesh
 - **Isaac example:** 2 twins with no track record of Good/bad? **...Not so much**
 - **Elephant?** Why was Jacob loved/Esau hated before birth?

That the purpose of God according to election might stand
...not of man who works but of God who calls

Ephesians 2:8 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.

- Hindsight of boy's lives answers some questions...

1. **Q.** Would Esau answer the call of God? **A.** No.

Hebrews 12:15 [Be careful...] lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled; 16 lest there be any fornicator or profane [lit. godless] person like Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. 17 For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it diligently with tears.

2. **Q.** Would Esau answer the call of God? **A.** No.
 3. **Q.** Did God know Esau would reject Him before Esau was born? **A.** Yes
 4. **Q.** Does God desire Esau to be saved? **A.** Yes

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] ... desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5. **Q.** Did God see some innate good in Jacob before birth? **A.** No

Romans 3:23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

6. **Q.** Did Jesus die for Ishmael and Esau? **A.** Yes, He did...

1 John 2:2 [Jesus] is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

Q. Does God predestine some to go to hell? **A.** No ...but He knows whose going...and He will use the lives of the ungodly to glorify Himself and work for the good of His people; i.e. those who answer yes to God's call and therefore are predestined to be conformed into the image of Christ. [NJC]

- **Plot thickens...**

Isaac had two twin sons from one woman...Children not yet born
 Children having done neither good nor evil...God loved one [accepted] hated [rejected] the other

SUMMARY Children of the Promise

III. Vessels of the Potter

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? Certainly not!

- **Context:** Paul sorrow is great and continues for fellow Jews rejection of Jesus
- **Is God fair? Is God just? IOW's Is God righteous?**

Deuteronomy 32:4 He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.

Since God is righteous, fair and just/Not arbitrary in His ways...

15 ...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."

- **What it does not say:**

1. I will have mercy on some and not on others. Those I like.
2. I will have compassion on some/not on others. Those w/some innate good

I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy and for however long I choose

- **Context:** Moses asks to see God's Goodness.
- **Answer?** I'll show you My goodness because I am good...not because you are Moses

Exodus 33:19 [Context] "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."

Exodus 34:5 Now the Lord descended in the cloud and stood with [Moses] there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. 6 And the Lord passed before him and proclaimed, "**The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth**, 7 keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin...by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children and the children's children to the third and the fourth generation."

God is Mercy, Grace, Patience, Goodness, Truth, Love
He shows His Mercy and Compassion to who he chooses...IOW's All of us

16 So then it is not of **him who wills**, nor of **him who runs**, but of **God who shows mercy**.

- **God shows man mercy:** Not getting what we deserve
1. Not because sinful man desires God to show Mercy
 2. Not because sinful man seeks/runs after God's mercy

God shows mercy even those He foreknows will reject Him until God decides enough
Man will never be able to say God is unjust even though God knew outcome beforehand

- **Next Week Qs to ponder:**

1. Did Pharaoh have a real choice to choose the Living God?
2. Did Judas have a real choice not to betray Jesus?

2 Peter 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.

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] ... desires **all men to be saved** and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Facts: This side of Heaven we have a choice to make...
All who come to God in humility will be Accepted/Adopted/Chosen

Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 **Do**

not harden your hearts as in the rebellion...

2 Corinthians 6:2b Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation.**

- **Did Pharaoh** have a genuine choice to be saved...even though God told Moses Pharaoh would reject God?
- **Did Judas** have a genuine choice not to betray Jesus...even though prophesy foretold he would betray Jesus?
- **Did Israel** have a genuine choice to accept the Messiah...even though God's Word proclaimed they would not?
- **Does man** have a genuine choice to be saved ...even though God already knows the outcome?

Romans 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How **unsearchable are His judgments** and **His ways past finding out!**

Thesis Romans 9: Pt 1 God shows mercy to all...even to those He foreknows will reject Him
Pt 2 God endures these vessels of wrath for the Salvation/Sanctification of His vessels of honor

Romans 9:13 As it is written, "**Jacob I have loved, but Esau I have hated.**" 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.**

- **Mercy:** Def. Not getting what we deserve
- **God shows mercy to everyone...**

3. Not because sinful man desires God to show Mercy
4. Not because sinful man seeks/runs after God's mercy

Exodus 34:6 [When] the Lord passed before [Moses] [He] proclaimed, "**The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,**

God shows man mercy... because God is merciful
Event to those He foreknows will reject Him

¹⁷ [Example] 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.**

Paul addresses a question some may ask
If God is fair and just..., why would He harden a person's heart?

- **First:** God foreknew Pharaoh would reject Him...

Exodus 4:21 [Lord to Moses] "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But **I will harden his heart**, so that he will not let the people go.

Since God foreknew Pharaoh would reject Him, did Pharaoh still have a choice to accept Him or were the pleas and plagues a ruse from a God who cannot lie? IOW's does God command an individual to make a decision he is unable by God to make. Cruel. No. But there comes a time, a specific time when

God allows an individual to go his own way. Good news: If a person still cares...there is still time yet he does not know how much. [NJC]

God hardened Pharaoh's heart. Now the rest of the story...

- Pharaoh chose to harden **his own heart 9x** before God solidified **his own decision**
- **God used His foreknowledge** of Pharaoh's rejection to glorify Himself at Red Sea

God will not waste the life/breath of a man He knows will reject Him
But will use their lives for His own purpose...His Glory and Our Good...

Exodus 14:13 ...Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and **see the salvation of the Lord**, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever. 14 The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace." ... **30** So the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. 31 Thus Israel saw the great work which the Lord had done in Egypt; so the people feared the Lord, **and believed the Lord and His servant Moses.**

God was Glorified. All things working together for the Children of God

- God continues to show all men mercy **for a time** even knowing outcome
- **Why?** So no person ever born can legitimately say God is unjust...

2 Peter 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.

- **God will wait...but not forever**

1. **Pharaoh:** God waited. Gave him 10 plagues/10 tries
2. **Judas:** Jesus waited till greed took over/Satan entered/even longer...

Matthew 26:14 [Should be given to poor/Jesus says no] **Then one of the twelve**, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

Luke 22:3 Then **Satan entered Judas...** who was **numbered among the twelve.**

John 6:70 "Did I not **choose you**, the twelve, and **one of you is a devil?**"

- One more opportunity...or not really? Real choice or make-believe

Matthew 26:49 Immediately [Judas] went up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. 50 But Jesus said to him, "**Friend, why have you come?**" Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and took Him.

- God used Pharaoh Glorify Himself and for the Good of His People
- God used Judas Glorify Himself in Jesus Sacrifice for the Good of His People

God is not going to waste the life/breath of a man He knows will reject Him

But will use them for His own purpose...to Glorify Himself

Deuteronomy 2:30 "But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let [Israel] pass through, for the Lord your God **hardened his spirit** and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as it is this day.

Joshua 11:20 For it was of the Lord to **harden their hearts**, that they should come against Israel in battle, that He might utterly destroy them, and that they might receive no mercy, but that He might destroy them, as the Lord had commanded Moses.

- **Context:** If Jews are God's chosen why are they rejecting the Gospel?

Luke 19:41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now [after your rejection of Me] they are **hidden from your eyes**. 43 For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

- **FACT:** Every rejection of God hardens the heart till one day silence

Hebrews 3:7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 **Do not harden your hearts** as in the rebellion..."

- Problem? Rebellious do not know how long God will extend mercy

2 Corinthians 6:2b Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, **now is the day of salvation**.

He has **mercy on whom He wills**, and **whom He wills He hardens**.

Q. Who is God to say when mercy ends/hardening begins? **A.** He is God/man is not

19 You will [might] say to me [Paul] 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?

- **Q.** I don't like that...Why doesn't God keep lavishing His Grace/Mercy till saved?
- **A.** Men have freewill and God is Sovereign. **When God says enough...that's it!**

The Potter can do what He wills with His Clay

Both vessels of honor and dishonor made from same dirt
Both Glorify God and Bless His Kids

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...**

- **Every individual is one of two vessels...**

1. **Vessels of Wrath:** Prepared for Destruction
2. **Vessels of Mercy:** Prepared for Glory

Paul does not say that God has prepared them for destruction. Those vessels do an adequate job on their own. [Guzik] Prepared: lit. *completely ready for destruction...how we are born*

Ephesians 2:3b [We] ...were **by nature children of wrath**, just as the others. 4 **But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ

- Can Vessels of wrath be changed to Vessels of honor?

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord **knows those who are His**," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. 21 Therefore **if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor**, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. [How do you know? If your repent]

Yet...God efficiently uses those who will not believe for the benefit of those who do...
Endures foreknown vessels of wrath for sake of predestined vessels of mercy

Context: God endured the Jews rejection of Jesus that He might display the riches of His Glory to a people that would accept Him...Us, the **Bride of Christ**

24 ... even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?

Colossians 1:27 To [us the Bride of Christ] God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.

1 Peter 2:10 ... who once were not a people but are **now the people of God**, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

- **He now uses the church to draw Israel:** Manifold Wisdom/All things...

Romans 10:19 "I will **provoke you to jealousy** by those who are not a nation, I will move you to anger by a foolish nation."

- **Israel will be saved!**

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."

- **God always leaves Israel a remnant**

- | | |
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| 1. Fulfill Abrahamic Covenant | Israel will inherit the land |
| 2. Fulfill Davidic Covenant | Jesus will inherit the Throne |

29 And as Isaiah said before: "Unless the Lord of Sabaoth had **left us a seed**, We would have become like Sodom, And we would have been made like Gomorrah."

SUMMARY Israel's Rejection and God's Justice: God will not strive in His mercy forever. Israel hardened their hearts to Jesus and God solidified their choice for 2000 years. God used their rejection for His glory in Jesus' sacrifice and for our good as the Bride was birthed on the Cross. In His manifold wisdom God will use the church to cause Israel to become jealous, drawing them to Himself during the tribulation after the church is raptured. **IOW's Bad choices do not affect the plan of a sovereign God** [NJC]

IV. Present Condition of Israel

30 What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who **did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness**, even the righteousness of faith; 31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? **Because they did not seek it by faith**, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they **stumbled at that stumbling stone**.

Because they did not seek it by faith: We might expect Paul to answer the question "Why?" again from God's perspective, and simply throw the matter back on God's sovereign choice. Instead, **he places the responsibility with Israel**: Because they did not seek it by faith... they stumbled at that stumbling stone. [Guzik]

Stumbled on Jesus as the Way of Salvation

- **Israel:** Tried to come own way/in their own righteousness/Pride
- **Gentiles:** Knew were a mess needed righteousness apart from law/Came in Humility

33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, And whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Jesus the Rock: Not Moving/His way or Highway

- **Some fall on the stone** in humility thanking God for stopping them in their tracks
- **Others stumble...**pridefully offended that the Stone is in their way...

To those who believe the Rock is Precious... To those who don't He is offensive

1 Peter 2:7 Therefore, to you who believe, **He is precious**; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling And a **rock of offense**." They stumble, being **disobedient** to the word, to which they also were appointed.

- Did God desire Israel to accept their King/Messiah? A. Yes

Romans 10:21 But to Israel he says: "All day long I have stretched out My hands To a

disobedient and contrary people."

Picture Paul penning Romans...Relishing in what God has done for him
Can't help think of his fellow Israelites who rejected Jesus to their own demise...

Luke 13:6 [Jesus] also spoke this parable: "A **certain man** had a fig tree planted in his vineyard [Israel] , and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. 7 Then he said to the keeper of his vineyard, 'Look, for three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree and find none. Cut it down; why does it use up [waste] the ground?' 8 But he answered and said to him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until **I dig around it and fertilize it.** 9 And if it bears fruit [after that], well. But if not, after that you can cut it down.'"

- Is the certain man Paul who would not/could not give up on his fellow Jews?

May we be those who, as Paul, have God's heart for the lost
The stakes are as high they get. Heaven and Hell

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God endures these vessels of wrath for the Salvation/Sanctification of His vessels of honor

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Facts: This side of Heaven every individual has a choice to make for Jesus
Good News: All who come to God in humility will be Accepted/Adopted/Chosen

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