

DIVINE ELECTION

Introduction

The Israel of God was never a physical one, but spiritual and solely based upon the divine election of God's promised seed. Divine election is hard to accept and raises some questions in this text.

Romans 9:14-29

God's Prerogative

God Is Always Righteous

[14] What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. Now, I remember like it was yesterday, the first time my eyes were opened to this truth, and my first reaction was "that's not fair!" That is exactly what this verse is saying. Once again, the Holy Spirit leads Paul to use the strongest Greek negation possible *God forbid*. In fact, I heard a sermon this week where the pastor indicated that if this wasn't your reaction to these previous verses, then you do not understand what the Bible is teaching.

God's Choice

[15] For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. (Exodus 33:19). **[16] So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.**

Not by the Will of Man

No one can will himself or herself into the family of God.

Not by the Work of Man

No one can work himself or herself into the family of God.

Only by the Will and Work of God

It is solely based upon God's sovereign choice. God shows mercy as He wills with no consideration for human will or work.

[17] For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. (Exodus 9:16). It was God Who kept Pharaoh alive and brought him to a position of world dominance.

His Power

In order to show the world His power.

His Glory

In order to show the world His glory.

[18] Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. It is God's sovereign will to choose those to whom He will show mercy or harden. It was God's choice to work in Pharaoh's life to harden his heart.

God's Privilege

God's Own Business

[19] Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Another question is raised. If God wills who to harden and to whom He will show mercy, then why does He find fault with anyone? It seems like a fair question from a human perspective, but as we will see that the answer is basically that it's none of our business. God has the right to do with His possessions as He wishes.

Man has No Right to Ask God that Question

[20] Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? O man as over against *God* has no right to question his creator. God has the right to form His creation as He sees fit.

The Potter has Privilege Over the Clay

[21] Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

Power (G1849; *privilege*)

Out of the Same Lump

A Vessel of Honor (G5092; *value*)

A Vessel of Dishonor (G819; *infamy (evil)*)

Compare Jeremiah 18:4-6

Also in the Church

2 Timothy 2:20-21 KJV But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. (21) If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, <i>and</i> prepared unto every good work.

God has Privilege Over Humanity

[22] What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: [23] And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, As the potter chooses to make vessels for different purposes out of the same lump of clay, so likewise does God choose vessels for different purposes out of the same lump of humanity.

Vessels of Wrath

To Show His Wrath

To Show His Power

Deals with Patience

2 Peter 3:9 KJV The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Fitted Themselves for Destruction The Bible doesn't teach double predestination. All humanity is headed to hell because of the fall of Adam

1 Corinthians 15:22 KJV (22) For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Vessels of Mercy

To Show the Riches of His Glory

Chosen Once for All in the Past

Foreordained unto Glory

God's Plan

To Include the Gentiles

[24] Even us, whom he hath called, (Romans 8:28-30) not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? [25] As he saith also in Osee, I will call them my people, which were not my people; and her beloved, which was not beloved. [26] And it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God. (Hosea 1:9-10, 2:23).

To Save Only the Remnant of Israel

[27] Esaias also crieth concerning Israel, Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved: [28] For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

To Accomplish All of This Through the Promised Seed

[29] And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma, and been made like unto Gomorrha.

Who is Christ

Galatians 3:16 KJV Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Without Christ None Would be Saved**Conclusion**

*Isaiah 55:8-9 KJV For my thoughts *<i>are</i>* not your thoughts, neither *<i>are</i>* your ways my ways, saith the LORD. (9) For *<i>as</i>* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

These verses declare that our human minds can't fully comprehend the mind of God. We will never completely understand divine election, but we can trust God to do what's best, and surrender to His sovereign authority.