

### **Devotional Questions – Romans 9:14-33**

1. *How does the story of Pharaoh (i.e. Exodus 9:16) help us to understand the hardening of hearts (Romans 9:17)?*
2. *What does God have the right to do (Romans 9:18)?*
3. *How does the story of Job (i.e. Job 42:7) help explain Paul's argument (Romans 9:19-20)?*
4. *Why does the Lord put up with sinners for so long (Romans 9:22-23)?*
5. *How does Hosea (i.e. Hosea 1:10, 2:23) show that God has always planned to save the Gentiles (Romans 9:25-26)?*
6. *What does Isaiah (i.e. Isaiah 10:22-23) tell us about Israel and the Gentiles (Romans 9:27-28)?*
7. *Why are some Gentiles saved and some Jews lost (Romans 9:30-33)?*
8. *What does the 'stumbling stone and rock of offence' have to do with the Gospel (Romans 9:33)?*

## Devotional Questions – Romans 9:14-33, Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Romans* pp 365-383 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1020, 1499-1500 for detailed comment.

1. *How does the story of Pharaoh (i.e. Exodus 9:16) help us to understand the hardening of hearts (Romans 9:17)?*

God hardens against Himself he who has first hardened himself against God. Note in passing Paul's equating of "***the scripture***" Romans 9:17 with God Himself Exodus 9:16 i.e. don't mess with the King James. That is if anything even more heinous than attempting to mess with God Himself, Psalm 138:2 "***...for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.***"

**"And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go"** Exodus 5:2.

**"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt...And he hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said"** Exodus 7:3, 13.

Pharaoh should have listened to Job and today's believer should listen to King David's exhortation to his son Solomon.

**"He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered?"** Job 9:4.

**"And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever"** 1 Chronicles 28:9.

2. *What does God have the right to do (Romans 9:18)?*

The Lord can decide whether to be merciful or unmerciful with respect to any individual or group of individuals. Today's believer should take encouragement from Jeremiah, therefore.

**"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The LORD is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him"** Lamentations 3:21-25.

3. *How does the story of Job (i.e. Job 42:7) help explain Paul's argument (Romans 9:19-20)?*

Job 9:4 summarises Paul's argument in Romans 9:19-20. Job when God confronts him therefore confesses "**Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes**" Job 42:6 and God declares that "**my servant Job hath...spoken of me the thing that is right**" Job 42:7.

Today's believer should therefore always seek to follow the Lord's confession in Luke 22:42 "**Father...not my will, but thine, be done.**"

4. *Why does the Lord put up with sinners for so long (Romans 9:22-23)?*

See *Question 2* with respect to "***the LORD'S mercies***" Lamentations 3:22. Paul himself testifies to the Lord's longsuffering with respect to unsaved sinners.

**"This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief. Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting"** 1 Timothy 1:15-16.

Today's believer should therefore be ready to voice his equivalent testimony as Peter exhorts.

**"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"** 1 Peter 3:15.

5. *How does Hosea (i.e. Hosea 1:10, 2:23) show that God has always planned to save the Gentiles (Romans 9:25-26)?*

Hosea 1:10, 2:23 state with respect to God's people Israel ***"...and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God...and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God."***

Paul then makes evangelical application with respect to ***"not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles"*** Romans 9:24 matching what he states elsewhere as his own calling from God that is also today's believer's calling from God.

**"For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth"** Acts 13:47.

6. *What does Isaiah (i.e. Isaiah 10:22-23) tell us about Israel and the Gentiles (Romans 9:27-28)?*

Isaiah 10:22 states in part ***"For though thy people Israel be as the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return."*** The statement is prophetic with respect to believing Israel at the Second Advent as Paul states in Hebrews 9:28 ***"So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation"***.

Concerning the Gentiles Isaiah 10:23 ***"For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land"*** refers specifically to God's wrath executed at the Second Advent as Isaiah and Jeremiah describe further.

**"For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many"** Isaiah 66:16.

**"And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground"** Jeremiah 25:33.

Today's believer can nevertheless rest in Revelation 3:10 **"Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth."**

7. *Why are some Gentiles saved and some Jews lost (Romans 9:30-33)?*

Romans 9:30 states with respect to the Gentiles ***"That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith"***.

Romans 9:31-32 state with respect to unbelieving Israel ***"But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law."***

Paul therefore sums up the respective positions of saved and lost, whether Jew or Gentile, in Galatians 2:16 **"Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified."**

Today's believer's exhortation to all unsaved individuals is therefore straightforward.

**"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."** Acts 16:31.

8. What does the 'stumbling stone and rock of offence' have to do with the Gospel (Romans 9:33)?

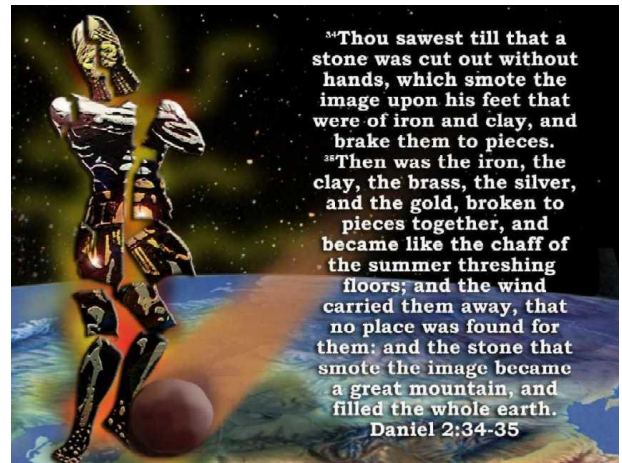
Peter explains that it has to do with the believer not being confounded or brought to nought 1 Corinthians 1:27, 28 as will be the fate of unbelievers without exception but rather raised up **"that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."**

**"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy"** 1 Peter 2:6-10.

Unbelievers should therefore be warned about their impending fate *now*.

**"And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder"** Luke 20:17-18.

**"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus"** Revelation 22:20.



Google image

[cdelph.org/old\\_site/daniel\\_2.html](http://cdelph.org/old_site/daniel_2.html)