

God's Sovereignty in Mercy and Wrath Romans 9:14-29 9-6-09

- I. God is Sovereign.**
 - A. As supreme ruler of all things, God has the right to choose nations/ individuals for certain purposes/responsibilities.**
 - B. God chose Isaac over Ishmael and Jacob over Esau and blessed Jacob's descendants (the Israelites) in many ways.**
 - C. Even though God favors certain people or nations over others, his arms are always open to welcome anyone who turns from sin and turns to him.**
- II. God Pours Out His Mercy As He Sees Fit (v.14-16).**
 - A. In Exodus 32 the people of Israel sinned against God by worshiping a golden calf.**
 - B. Moses asked God to spare his people and God complied; God did this because of his mercy and compassion.**
 - C. If God had focused on justice alone Israel would have perished, but God focused on mercy and compassion chose to forgive; this sovereign act of God was an act of grace.**
- III. God Pours Out His Wrath As He Sees Fit (v.17-19).**
 - A. God did not arbitrarily give Pharaoh a stubborn, rebellious will; Pharaoh spent many years developing his stubborn, rebellious will on his own**
 - B. When God demanded the release of his people, it brought out the hardness in Pharaoh's heart to a greater extent.**
 - C. God's demands led to Pharaoh's obstinacy and disobedience which led to God's wrath (see Ex. 7 – 12).**
- IV. Who Are We to Criticize God (v.20-26)?**
 - A. The potter can take a lump of clay and make an elaborate flask for special use or the potter can take a lump of clay and make a cooking pot for common use.**
 - B. If the potter can do what he wants with his pots, then God can do what he wants with his people – people he created.**
 - C. God has the right to be a God of wrath when wrath is due; God also has the right to be a God of mercy even when mercy isn't due.**
 - D. Although the Gentiles were not God's chosen people, they, along with the Jews, were part of God's redemptive plan.**
- V. God's Promise to Israel (v. 27-29).**
 - A. God promised that a remnant of Israel would be saved.**
 - B. The fact that some Israelites were alive and had come to know Christ fulfilled God's promise to preserve a remnant.**