

faith. This was a stumbling stone for them; a rock of offense. They were looking for a Messiah, a deliverer, who would set up His kingdom in this world at His coming; not a man of sorrows and death. They just could not accept such a One as this Person of salvation. They would be ashamed of such a Deliverer.

3. Romans 9:33 tells us, *Whosoever believeth on Him* (that stumbling stone and rock of offense), shall not be ashamed. Who is this stumbling stone and rock of offense? _____

NINETH STUDY

ISRAEL AND GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY / GOD RULES

PAUL'S CONCERN FOR ISRAEL (Romans 9:1-5)

Paul expresses his great heaviness and the continued sorrow in his heart for the Jewish nation of Israel (Romans 9:1,2). This heaviness is so severe for lost Israel that he would to give up his part in Christ for his brethren (Romans 9:3). We have to understand, though, that Paul was in no way saying he would return to evil, but just that his grief was so deep that he would be willing to be separated from communion with Christ if they would accept the gospel.

Accursed here, means excommunicated. This only means that this thought had passed through his mind, because in Romans 9:3 he says, "*I could wish that I myself were accursed.*"

GOD'S PURPOSE OF MERCY AND JUSTICE (Romans 9:6-18)

1. (a) Just because all of Israel are the seed of Abraham, does this mean they are all the children of the promise? (Romans 9:6-8) _____
(b) Explain (Romans 9:7,8) _____

2. Who do you think is the seed Paul is talking about in Romans 9:7 where he says, “*but in Isaac shall thy seed be called?*” _____

In Romans 9:13, where we read, *Jacob have I loved ...Esau have I hated*: this verse does not mean that Jacob and his descendants were elected to eternal salvation while Esau and his descendants were elected to eternal damnation. It means, it was an appointment of Jacob’s descendants to be the route of God’s revelation and blessing to the world. When we study all of Chapter 9 through Chapter 11 of Romans, we will find out that the majority of Jacob's descendants failed in carrying out their calling and finally were rejected by God (Romans 9:27,30-33; 10:3; 11:20). On the other hand, those who were not “*loved,*” ---- which means the Gentiles: obeyed God through faith and became the children of Almighty God; and spiritual children of Abraham by our faith (Romans 9:25-26).

3. According to Romans 9:15,16, can God’s mercy be controlled or earned by humans? _____
4. According to Romans 9:17, what did *the scripture* say unto Pharaoh? _____

Those who reject God and His Son, stand a chance of God hardening their hearts (cf. Romans 1:21-32).

GOD’S MERCY AND JUSTICE DEFENDED

(Romans 9: 19-29)

Romans 9:21 - *Hath not the Potter power over the clay?* Paul is arguing for God’s right to use certain people to accomplish His redemptive purpose without having to answer to anyone.

God is governed in His nature, not by human will, but by His love (John 3:16), mercy (Psalm 62:12), and moral integrity (Psalm 116:5). Those who interpret Romans 9:6-29 to mean that God arbitrarily chooses some people for salvation and others for destruction have misconstrued (misunderstood) the passage. ¹

1. If one becomes a “*vessel of wrath*” (Romans 9:22), which refers to those being made ready for eternal destruction (Knowing that one becomes a vessel of wrath by his own sinful acts and rebellion toward God); what do you think the phrase “*vessels of mercy*” (Romans 9:23) means? _____
2. From Romans 9:30-32, what was the difference between the way the Gentiles, and the Jews sought righteousness? _____

It was hard for the majority of Israel to be willing to submit to God’s plan which was salvation by _____

1. Full Life Study Bible, p. 383.