

Friends Bible Study Romans 9 Meditation Questions

Romans 9:1-5 What Happened to Israel

I speak the truth in Christ; I am not lying, as confirmed by my conscience in the Holy Spirit. ²I have deep sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, my own flesh and blood, ⁴the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory and the covenants; theirs the giving of the law, the temple worship, and the promises. ⁵Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them proceeds the human descent of Christ, who is God over all, forever worthy of praise! Amen.

Meditation Question: Why do you think that Israel did not receive God's greatest blessing of righteousness through Christ, even though they were given such great blessings and wonderful promises?

Romans 9:6-9 Who are the true children of Israel?

It is not as though God's word has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. ⁷Nor because they are Abraham's descendants are they all his children. On the contrary, "Through Isaac your offspring will be reckoned." ⁸So it is not the children of the flesh who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise stated: "At the appointed time I will return, and Sarah will have a son."

Meditation Question: Who are the true children of Abraham? Explain your answer from these verses and from other passages including the following: John 1:12-13, John 3:8-10. Romans 2:28-29, Romans 8:14, 1 John 5:1.

Romans 9:10-15

"Is God unjust!"

Not only that, but Rebecca's children were conceived by one man, our father Isaac. ¹¹ Yet before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad, in order that God's plan of election might stand, ¹² not by works but by Him who calls, she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³ So it is written: "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."

¹⁴ What then shall we say? **Is God unjust?** Certainly not! ¹⁵ For He says to Moses:

"I will have mercy on whom I have mercy,
and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." (Exodus 33:19)

Meditation Question: **Why was God NOT unjust or unfair in choosing Jacob over Esau? Explain your answer.**

Romans 9:16-21

Who are you to talk back to God?

¹⁶ So then, it does not depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy. ¹⁷ For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed in all the earth." ¹⁸ Therefore God has mercy on whom He wants to have mercy, and He hardens whom He wants to harden.

Meditation Question: **How was God's power and glory displayed to the world through Pharaoh? Did Pharaoh deserve God's mercy? Do we? Explain your answers.**

¹⁹ One of you will say to me, "Then why does God still find fault? For who can resist His will?" ²⁰ But **who are you, O man, to talk back to God?** Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, "Why did You make me like this?"

²¹ Does not the potter have the right to make from the same lump of clay one vessel for special occasions and another for common use?

Meditation Question: **"Who are you to talk back to God or to say, 'Why did you make me like this?'"**

Romans 9:22-29

The Riches of His Glory, and the Depths of His Love!

22 What if God, intending to show His wrath and make His power known, bore with great patience the vessels of His wrath, prepared for destruction? **23** What if He did this to make the riches of His glory known to the vessels of His mercy, whom He prepared in advance for glory – **24** including us, whom He has called not only from the Jews, but also from the Gentiles?

Meditation Question: Who are “vessels of His wrath” and “vessels of His mercy?” How has God made known to us the riches of His glory?

Meditation Question: Describe the heart of God towards the people of Israel and towards Gentiles from verses 25-29.

Romans 9:30-33

Jesus is the Stumbling Stone!

Romans 9:30-33 What then will we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, a righteousness that is by faith; **31** but Israel, who pursued a law of righteousness, has not attained it. **32** Why not? Because their pursuit was not by faith, but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone, **33** as it is written:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling
and a rock of offense;
and the one who believes in Him
will never be put to shame.”

Meditation Question: Why did Israel NOT pursue righteousness by faith, but pursued a law of righteousness?

Meditation Question: Why did they stumble over Jesus, the stumbling stone?