

FREEDOM!
God's Right to Do What He Chooses • Part 1
Lesson 11

The Crucial Question that Romans 9-11 Answers: *Has God's Word—His saving promises to Israel—failed, in light of the fact that so many Jews have rejected Christ and are doomed to eternal punishment?*

How Does the Answer Unfold?

Q1 Has God's Word failed? *(9:6)* *Objection:* ***FAILURE?!***
Answer: *NO! God's promise of salvation is* ***rooted*** *in God's sovereign, unconditional choice. (9:6-13)*

Q2 Is God unfair in choosing unconditionally? *(9:14)* *Objection:* ***FAIRNESS?!***
Answer: *NO! Unconditional election* ***reflects*** *the perfection of God's character in all of its fullness. (9:14-18)*

Q3 Is God unreasonable to hold us accountable for our choices, if no one resists His will? *(9:19)* *Objection:* ***FATALISM?!***
Answer: *NO! Who are we to question God's sovereign* ***right*** *to accomplish His own purposes as our Creator and Redeemer? Unconditional election* ***reveals*** *the riches of God's glorious mercy against the backdrop of His longsuffering wrath. (9:19-29)*

REMEMBER, the questions are being answered from a **GOD**-centered perspective and not a man-centered one!

Outlining the Passage Is Once Again Easy, but Understanding It Is Once Again Hard!

- **The NATURAL OBJECTION:** *"You will say to me then, "Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?" (v. 19)*
- **The EMOTIONAL CONFRONTATION:** *"But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?" (vv. 20-23)*
- **The PERSONAL APPLICATION:** *"even us who He has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles" (v. 24)*
- **The SCRIPTURAL CONFIRMATION** *"As indeed He says…" (vv. 25-29)*

Hosea 2:23 *(v. 25-26)*	Applied to the Chosen and Called Out Gentiles in the Church Age
Isaiah 10:22-23; 1:9 *(v. 27-29)*	Applied to the Chosen and Called Out Jewish Remnant in the Church Age

God Is Free to Do as He Chooses with His Rebellious Creation in Keeping with His Revealed Character

"So then He has mercy on whomever He wills, and He hardens whomever He wills." Romans 9:18

1. The Natural Objection (v. 19)

"Well then, you might say, "Why does God blame people for not responding? Haven't they simply done what he makes them do?" [NLT]

- This is a ***natural objection*** that is a result of not only human reasoning but is also rooted in the flesh/unbelief. *(Exodus 5:2)*

- This is a ***antagonistic objection*** that is presented in a ***"you"*** versus ***"me"*** way. *(9:14, 19)*

- This is a ***fatalistic objection*** that basically accuses God of making people into robots or puppets.

- This is an ***accurate objection*** that draws the right conclusions but with the wrong attitude.

  - **FIRST,** God still holds sinners like us **ACCOUNTABLE** for our choices to sin and rebel. *(Romans 1:18-20; 3:9-18, 23; Exodus 1:8-22; 5:1-2;* ***7:33****; 8:1-4, 20-23; 9:1-5, 13-14, 34; 10:3-11; 11:4-8; 14:1-3, 5-7)*

  - **SECOND,** God is still sovereign over our choices so that no one ultimately **RESISTS** His will. *Psalm 115:3, 135:6; Isaiah 46:10; Daniel 4:35; Proverbs 16:33*

2. The Emotional Confrontation (vv. 20-23)

"But who are you, O man, to answer back to God?"

➤ This is a ***very emotional*** confrontation.

➤ This is a ***very direct*** confrontation.

➤ This is a ***very clear*** confrontation.

1) God is **GOD** and we are not. *(9:20a)*

2) God is the **MAKER** and we are what He made out of the dust. *(9:20b)*

3) God is the **POTTER** and we are the clay pots, which He has created for His purpose, but we rebel against Him. *(9:21)*

4) God is the **DESIGNER** and we are the works of His hand put on display to reveal His purposes. *(9:22-23)*

➤ This is a ***very effective*** confrontation.

1st Question ***reminds us*** who we are: **PUNY PEOPLE AND NOT THE ALMIGHTY GOD**! *(9:20a)*

2nd Question ***puts us*** in our place: **CREATURES AND NOT THE CREATOR**! *(9:20b)*

3rd Question ***shows us*** God's right to fulfill His purposes in our lives: **CLAY POTS AND NOT THE POTTER**! *(9:21)*

4th Question ***overcomes us*** with the ***mystery*** of His ***majestic mission*** of ***mercy***! *(9:22-23)*

> ***22*** What ***IF*** God, desiring to show his wrath and to make known his power, has endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,
> ***23*** in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory—
> [***THEN*** would we have a right to answer back to God?]
> ***24*** even us whom he has called, not from the Jews only but also from the Gentiles?