

Study Questions for Romans 9

1. In Romans 9-11 Paul treats one of the most bewildering problems that faced the early church. What was that problem?
2. Why was Paul the perfect person to write about this problem?
3. Does Paul write this section out of *anger* toward his fellow Jews?
4. Did the Jews have any advantages over the Gentiles? If so, what were they?
5. How could such a privileged people be cut off from the promises of God? Was God faithless to His promises? Had His promises come to nothing?
6. What does Paul mean when he says that “they are not all Israel who are of Israel”?
7. God made promises to (ALL or SOME?) of Jacob’s descendants and those promises were (UNCONDITIONAL or CONDITIONAL?).
8. Why does Paul mention Ishmael & Isaac and Esau & Jacob?
9. If Esau did not *earn* his rejection and if Jacob did not *earn* his acceptance, then how can God avoid a charge of partiality?
10. How did Pharaoh serve God’s purpose in refusing to let the Israelites leave Egypt?
11. Who hardened Pharaoh’s heart? Was it God? Was it *only* God?
12. How does God harden someone’s heart? Does God harden the hearts of believers?
13. Why does God find fault with those He has hardened—can they resist His will?
14. Does the passage from Hosea in verses 25-26 speak of the Gentiles or the Jews?
15. Why did most of the Jews fail to find what they were seeking? Was it *fair* that the Gentiles received the blessings while most of the Jews did not?