

- 16 So then it does not depend on man who wills or the man who runs, but God who has mercy.
- 17 For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My power in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."
- 18 So then He has mercy on whom He desires, and He hardens whom He desires.
- 19 You will say to me then, " Why does He still find fault? For who resists His will?
- 20 On the contrary, who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, "Why did you make me like this," will it?
- 21 Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?
- 22 What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction?
- 23 And He did so in order the He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory,
- 24 even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.
- 25 As He says also in Hosea, "I will call those who were not My people, 'My people', And her who was not beloved, 'Beloved'."
- 26 "And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There they shall be called sons of the living God."
- 27 And Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved;
- 28 For the Lord will execute His word upon the earth, thoroughly and quickly."
- 29 And just as Isaiah foretold, "Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left to us a posterity, We would have become as Sodom, and would have resembled Gomorrah."

Analysis of the Passage.

Theme: it is God's sovereign choice, either to show mercy or to harden

Examples of God's exercise of His sovereign choice:

- (1) God chose Abraham, and showed mercy to him
- (2) God chose Isaac rather than Ishmael, and showed mercy to him (vss. 7, 9)
- (3) God chose Jacob rather than Esau, and showed mercy to him (vss. 10-13)
- (4) God chose Moses and the nation of Israel, rather than Pharaoh and the nation of Egypt; and He showed mercy to Moses and Israel, but hardened Pharaoh and Egypt (vss. 15-18)