

Romans 9:17-

- Vs 15 – “*he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy*” b/c Israel’s sin w/golden calf
 - God has the right to extend mercy to whom He wishes to fulfill His purpose
 - Israel broke the covenant, not God, & so He can choose to *NOT* withdraw His promises – vs 15 means
- Vs 16 – “*so then*” – b/c God has the right (even thru His covenant w/Israel who is now complaining God not fair)
 - So then... it is God, not man (he that wills or runs) God that determines how His mercy shall be given
 - God extended mercy when Israel made the calf, God extended mercy when Israel rejected their Messiah
 - Paul is pointing out that God setting Israel aside is God’s mercy: trib next on agenda if not for day of grace
 - Any complaint that God was not fair fails to see these points – has nothing to do w/Calvinism

1. 9:17 – Unto Pharaoh

- A. “*Even for this same purpose*” – *NOTE – what purpose? Shows that God is doing this to fulfill His purpose
- B. “*raised thee up*” God didn’t create the person/Pharaoh destined to destruction. God raised Pharaoh up to his position as the highest ruler in the world so that His contest with him might have historical consequence. And that is exactly what happened.
- C. “*that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth*”
 - i. **Ex. 15:1-15.** A song of the Israelites.
 - ii. 40y later Rahab (Jericho) said to the spies from Israel: **Josh. 2:9-11**
 - iii. Still later the Gibeonites said to Joshua: **Josh. 9:9**

2. 9:18 – Does God *cause* people to reject Him?

- A. “*he will he hardeneth*” – Doesn’t that suggest some have no chance. NO, not what this is saying.
 - i. This is not about sovereignty as some suggest (God knew Pharaoh would reject anyway so He went ahead & caused it to happen.
 - ii. God does not cause or even tempt *any* man – **Jas 1:13-15**
 - iii. God brings truth & man chooses his response
 - iv. **Truth hardens people’s hearts** – this is how God hardens people. He doesn’t make them reject, He gives them something to reject
 - v. It was Pharaoh that hardened his heart at God’s demands – **Ex 9:16-35, 4:21-23**
 - i. **Ex 7:22-23; Ex 8:5-15, Ex 8:16-19** *NOTE “*finger of God*” Pharaoh rejects like the people rejected Christ *cf* **Lk 11:14-28**

Yes, God knew Pharaoh would reject but He did not make Pharaoh reject. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart only “*indirectly or instrumentally*” (*Stam*). God made the demand & Pharaoh, thus bring out the circumstance that Pharaoh’s rebellious heart & self-will would be exposed & God could show His power to all the earth through it.

He would have to take His people by force – **Ex 3:18-20** but God uses the wicked for His purpose **Ps 10:2**