

**The Potter And The Clay**  
**Romans 9: 19-24**

**March 2, 2025**

Sin	Salvation	Sancti- fication	Sovereignty	Service	So Long
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**GOD  
IS  
SUPER  
ANGRY!!**

Verse 19 - 20

**Did God make Pharoah resist His will?**

**Was Pharoah created from eternity past, pre-programmed to resist God's will?**

*If so, "Why does He still find fault?"*

**Think about what you know about God:**

**God is not the author of confusion or evil**

**God is perfectly righteous**

**God cannot act in a way that is contrary to who He is**

**God knows all things**

**God knew that Pharoah, *of his own free will*, would not heed God**

## Verse 20:

A man argument, a Pharoah argument, a Judas argument:

*“Why have You made me like this?”*

God did not make them like this

God is simply using their unrepentant sin state to accomplish His purpose

## Verse 21

**Our Sovereign God can use the clay for  
His purposes**

**The same clay (*the same lump*) can be used for different purposes = *the lump is Israel!***

**Out of Israel, one lump will be for honor and one lump for dishonor**

**Honor = believing Israel; Dishonor = unbelieving Israel**

**Paul is using this illustration, taken out of the Old Testament, of the potter and the clay**

**In Romans, the potter and the clay are all about Israel, *not individual salvation!***

**The vessel of honor is true Israel, *believers in Messiah***

**The vessel of dishonor is unbelieving Israel, *those who do not believe in Messiah***



Verse 22 - 23

Vessels of wrath vs vessels of mercy

**Wrath** = “*orge*” = refers to God’s severe and divine displeasure against sin

**Notice God’s disposition to those under divine wrath:**

**“ . . . endured with much longsuffering”**

(“*makrothumia*” = slow to heat up, patient with people)

**“ *the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction*”**

(“Prepared” is in the passive voice = the people prepared themselves for destruction)

**It was not God who prepared them; they rejected mercy, grace and compassion!**

**God offered mercy to Pharoah, to Judas and to Israel, *all rejected it!***

**Notice who God blesses:**

***“ . . . the vessels of mercy ”***

**Who are “*the vessels of mercy*” ?**

***BELIEVING ISRAEL!!***

## Verse 24

Focus change: Israel to us = *Believers!*

**Notice the word usage change:**

From Israel's election, or choosing, to the "called"

**God's calling = "kaleo" = a divine invitation to participate in the blessing of redemption**

**This is an invitation to salvation, to be part of the body of Messiah**

**This is not saying God has called a portion of Jews and Gentiles to salvation in a manner in which they cannot reject His call**

**God's invitation to salvation is global and universal; *it is an invitation to all, not simply a few!***

**John 3: 16**

**2 Peter 3: 9**

## CLOSING THOUGHTS:

Is salvation “*monergistic*”? = God only = Calvinism

Is salvation “*synergistic*”? = God and man = Arminianism

What I see in Scripture, *God is the means of salvation exclusively!*

Depraved people cannot come to God on their own initiative  
John 6: 44 – *NOT US!*

Depraved people are born into the kingdom of darkness and must be forcibly extracted from the kingdom of darkness to be saved – Colossians 1: 13-14 – *NOT US!*

Depraved people do not seek God on their own –  
Romans 3: 11 – NOT US!

Depraved people are given the grace to believe –  
Ephesians 2: 8-9 – NOT US!

**What about us?**

Our job is to believe and receive the gift of salvation

Believe and receiving are NOT works!

**Hopefully, we have gone through the Scripture with a literal hermeneutic!**

# Biblical Interpretation

- A literal-grammatical-historical hermeneutic is *literal* in that it seeks to understand the normal or plain sense of each Bible passage.
- Robert Thomas describes this method when he states: "Take each statement in its plain sense if it matches common sense, and do not look for another sense."<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> Robert L. Thomas, *Evangelical Hermeneutics—The New Versus the Old* (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel, 2002), 155



**I have done my best to present a correct Biblical interpretation**

**In heaven, I will discover where I have erred**

**Thankfully, God is merciful!**

**I am sure glad of this, and hopefully you are also!**

***HE IS THE POTTER!* I am the clay**

***REMAIN TEACHABLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS!***

