THE QUESTION

Does Romans 9 teach that God picks each person for salvation or ruin?

Asked by a THF member on May 19, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 8 numbered quotations · the 22 early Christian passages and 297 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/does-romans-9-teach-that-god-picks-each-person-for-salvation-or-ruin

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

The early writers here do not read Romans 9 as God fixing each person's salvation or ruin ahead of time. Irenaeus sees Jacob and Esau as pictures of two peoples, and Origen insists Paul still holds people responsible. God foreknows all things and calls everyone, and people freely respond to Him.

LIBRARY ONLY	This study was written only from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible, never from the web. Every passage we kept from what the library gave is listed at the back, with a link to read it.
HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 8

Jacob and Esau stand for two peoples

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus reads Paul's words about Jacob and Esau as a sign that the twins pictured two nations, one greater and one lesser. He links God's words "Jacob have I loved" to God's knowledge of hidden things and of all that will happen.

1 “This indicates that not only were there prophecies regarding the patriarchs, but also that the children born to Rebecca foreshadowed the two nations.”

later in the same passage

“Our God, who knows hidden things and foresees all events, is also their God; and for this reason, He has said, “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.””

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 2 OF 8

God's choice is never without a reason

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen notes that Paul himself asks if God is unfair and answers "God forbid." He takes this as Paul inviting us to see that God's choosing of Jacob over Esau did not happen without a just reason.

2 “And so that he might give us an opportunity to inquire into these matters, and to see how these things do not happen without a reason, he answers himself and says, "God forbid."”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 9 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 3 OF 8

Origen names the fixed-fate reading

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Origen states the view some drew from Romans 9: that God forms some people for salvation and others for ruin, so nothing depends on us. He raises it in order to show it cannot be what Paul meant.

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3 “For it will be said: If the potter of the same lump makes some vessels unto honor and others unto dishonor, and God thus forms some men for salvation and others for ruin, then salvation or ruin does not depend on us, nor do we have free will.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 8

Paul blames and praises real choices

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Origen points out that Paul scolds sinners who would not repent and blesses those who did good. If God had fixed every person's end, that blame and praise would make no sense. So Paul cannot be teaching that our choices do not matter.

4 “If, then, the apostle does not utter contradictions, how can he, according to him who so understands him, reasonably find fault, censuring the man at Corinth who had committed fornication, or those who had fallen away and had not repented of the licentiousness and impurity of which they had been guilty?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Origen,** *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (c. 215–254 AD) **Source 17, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 8

God sets the choice before us

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Justin Martyr says Scripture from the start puts good and evil before people and tells them to choose the good. He agrees with the saying that the one who chooses is to blame, and God is not.

5 “The Holy Spirit of prophecy taught us this, telling us through Moses that God spoke to the first man created: “Look, before you are good and evil: choose the good.””

later in the same passage

“Similarly, when Plato says, “The blame is his who chooses, and God is blameless,” he drew this from the prophet Moses and expressed it.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Justin Martyr,** *First Apology* (c. 130–165 AD) **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 6 OF 8

Christ is Savior of all, calling all equally

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Clement of Alexandria says Christ is not the Savior of some and not others. He does speak of those predestined and called, but he places this inside a call that goes to all, with special honor for those who believe.

6

> “For He is Saviour, not the Saviour of some and not of others. But according to the fitness each person has, He has given His kindness both to Greeks and to Barbarians, even to those among them who were predestined, and called at the proper time, the faithful and elect.”
>
> *later in the same passage*
>
> “Nor can He who called all equally, and gave special honors to those who believed in an especially excellent way, ever envy anyone.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Alexandria,** *Stromata* 7.2 (c. 190–215 AD) **Source 10, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 8

God wants sinners to turn and live

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

An early treatise quotes God's words through Ezekiel that He does not want the sinner to die but to turn and live. This shows God's mercy is held out to sinners who will turn to Him.

7

> “I do not desire the death of the sinner, but I desire that the sinner should turn from his evil way and live.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Anonymous,** *Treatise Against the Heretic Novatian* 1 **Source 22, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
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POINT 8 OF 8

Repent while there is still time

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

An early sermon credited to Clement of Rome says we are like clay a potter can still reshape. It urges readers to repent now and keep the Lord's commands, because after this life there is no more chance to repent.

8

> "In the same way, while we are in this world, let us repent with our whole heart of the evil deeds we have done in the flesh, so that we may be saved by the Lord while we still have an opportunity to repent."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Clement of Rome,** *Second Epistle* 8 (c. 88–99 AD) **Source 2, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**

THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don't tell us

- These passages do not explain every verse of Romans 9 one by one.
- Clement of Alexandria does speak of people who were predestined, but these passages do not spell out how he understood that word.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 22 early Christian passages and 297 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–22, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 23–162, in Bible order), then 157 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF's updated English unless marked "1885 English" (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). "… [continues online]" marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *22 passages from 10 writers*

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 1*

1 *Epistle of Barnabas* (on point 1) and about whom He declared that this people would be greater than the other. In another prophecy, Jacob speaks more clearly to his son Joseph, saying, “Behold, the Lord has… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome, *c. 88–99 AD · source 2*

2 *Second Epistle* 8 (1885 English) **Quote 8, page 5** “as the potter, if he make a vessel, and it be distorted or broken in his hands, fashions it over again… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · sources 3–4*

3 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 5) “He foreknows that some are to be saved by repentance, some even that are perhaps not yet born… [continues online] **read ›**

4 *First Apology* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** “God foreknowing all that shall be done by all men, and it being His decree that the future actions of men shall all be recompensed according to their several value… [continues online] **read ›**

Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · sources 5–8*

5 *Against Heresies: Book IV* **Quote 1, page 2** “our father Isaac,” she received a message from the Word, “that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not based on works, but on Him who calls. It… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (on point 1) “anyone examines Jacob's actions, they will find them meaningful and rich in significance regarding the divine plans. Firstly, at his birth, he grabbed his brother's heel and was… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Against Heresies: Book III* “All these things were foreknown by the Father… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Against Heresies: Book V* (on point 1) s blessing for his younger son Jacob holds the same meaning when he says, "Behold, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 9–12*

9 *Stromata* 5.1 And if he was elect, their hypothesis is destroyed, since even before the coming of the Lord an election was found, and that election was saved: "For it was reckoned… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Stromata* 7.2 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** “He is Saviour; not [the Saviour] of some, and of others not… [continues online] **read ›**

11 *Stromata* 6.7 (1885 English) “the sons of Jacob are the elect — they who have tripped up the energy of wickedness… [continues online] **read ›**

12 *Stromata* 4.7 (1885 English) “whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the first-born among many brethren… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 13–14*

13 *Against Marcion* 40 “the Creator, however, the two courses were perfectly compatible: both the predestination before the ages and the revelation… [continues online] **read ›**

14 *Against Marcion* 14 (1885 English) “hardens the heart of Pharaoh. He deserved, however, to be influenced to his destruction, who had already denied God, already in his pride so often rejected His ambassadors, accumulated heavy… [continues online] **read ›**

Hippolytus, *c. 200–236 AD · source 15*

15 *Exegetical Fragments* 1 (on point 1) “conveys a figure of the Holy Spirit. Esau conveys a figure of the first people and the devil. Jacob conveys a figure of the Church, or of Christ. That Isaac… [continues online] **read ›**

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Origen, *c. 215–254 AD · sources 16–20*

16 *Commentary on Matthew* 11 (1885 English) “since the lost sheep of the house of Israel, with the exception of the remnant according to the election of grace, Romans 11:5 disbelieved the Word, on this account… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 **Quotes 3, 4, page 3** God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why have you made me thus? Does not the potter have power over the clay, of the same lump… [continues online] **read ›**

18 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 9 **Quote 2, page 2** altogether silent on the nature of this secret. For when the Apostle Paul discusses the case of Jacob and Esau, he says: "For the children being not yet born, neither… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *Commentary on Matthew* 13 (1885 English) “whether from birth they had been appointed, according to the foreknowledge and predestination of God, over those whom God also foreknew, and foreordained to be conformed to the glory of… [continues online] **read ›**

20 *De Principiis (On First Principles)* 1 (1885 English; on point 3) “not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour… [continues online] **read ›**

Methodius, *c. 270–311 AD · source 21*

21 *Concerning Free Will* 1 And in this matter, according to the Word, when he speaks of the day of our holy feast, "the election has attained it, but the rest have become hardened," as… [continues online] **read ›**

Anonymous · *source 22*

22 *Treatise Against the Heretic Novatian* 1 **Quote 7, page 4** them.” We also read that the Lord said similar words through Ezekiel: “Son of man, the house of Israel has lived in its own land, and they have defiled it… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *140 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

23 **Genesis 25:23** The Lord said to her, “Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples shall be separated from your belly. One people shall be stronger than the other people, and the elder shall serve the younger.” **read ›**

24 **Genesis 25:26** After this his brother came out, and his hand had hold of Esau’s heel, and she called his name Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah bore them. **read ›**

25 **Genesis 25:28** Isaac loved Esau, because his game was food for him, but Rebekah loved Jacob. **read ›**

26 **Genesis 25:29** Jacob cooked stew, and Esau came in from the plain, fainting. **read ›**

27 **Genesis 25:30** Esau said to Jacob, “Let me taste some of this red stew, for I am fainting.” That is why his name was called Edom. **read ›**

28 **Genesis 25:31** Jacob said to Esau, “Sell me your birthright today.” **read ›**

29 **Genesis 25:33** Jacob said to him, “Swear to me today.” So he swore to him, and Esau sold his birthright to Jacob. **read ›**

30 **Genesis 25:34** Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and Esau ate and drank, and rose and went away. So Esau despised his birthright. **read ›**

31 **Genesis 27:6** Then Rebekah said to Jacob her younger son, “Look, I heard your father speaking to Esau your brother, saying, **read ›**

32 **Genesis 27:30** As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob his son, and just as Jacob had gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, Esau his brother came in from his hunting. **read ›**

33 **Genesis 27:36** And he said, “He is rightly named Jacob, for behold, he has cheated me this second time. He took my birthright, and now he has taken my blessing.” Then Esau said to his father, “Have you not left a blessing for me, father?” **read ›**

34 **Genesis 27:41** Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him. And Esau said in his mind, “Let the days of mourning for my father draw near, so that I may kill Jacob my brother.” **read ›**

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35 **Genesis 27:42** The words of Esau her elder son were reported to Rebekah. So she sent and called Jacob her younger son and said to him, “Behold, Esau your brother is threatening to kill you. **read ›**

36 **Genesis 35:10** And God said to him, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel shall be your name.” And he called his name Israel. **read ›**

37 **Genesis 47:7** Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and set him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh. **read ›**

38 **Genesis 47:8** Pharaoh said to Jacob, “How many are the years of the days of your life?” **read ›**

39 **Genesis 47:9** And Jacob said to Pharaoh, “The days of the years of my life, in which I live as a foreigner, are a hundred and thirty years. Few and evil have been the days of the years of my life, and they have not reached the days of the years of my fathers’ lives, in the days when they lived as foreigners.” **read ›**

40 **Genesis 47:10** And Jacob blessed Pharaoh and went out from his presence. **read ›**

41 **Exodus 14:8** The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and of his servants, and he pursued the children of Israel; but the children of Israel were going out with a high hand. **read ›**

42 **Exodus 33:19** And the Lord said, “I will pass by before you in my glory, and I will call by my name, ‘The Lord,’ before you; and I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” **read ›**

43 **Leviticus 6:21** It shall be made on a griddle with oil; he shall bring it kneaded, in rolls, a sacrifice of broken pieces, a sacrifice for a pleasing aroma to the Lord. (Septuagint Leviticus 6:14 (Leviticus 6:21 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

44 **Leviticus 11:33** And any clay vessel into which any of these falls, whatever is inside it shall be unclean, and the vessel shall be broken. **read ›**

45 **Leviticus 15:12** A clay vessel that the man with the discharge touches shall be broken, and a wooden vessel shall be rinsed in water, and it shall be clean. **read ›**

46 **Numbers 24:18** And Edom shall be an inheritance, and Esau his enemy shall be an inheritance; and Israel has done mightily. **read ›**

47 **Deuteronomy 10:15** Yet the Lord preferred your fathers, to love them, and he chose their seed after them—you—above all the nations, as at this day. **read ›**

48 **Deuteronomy 32:15** So Jacob ate and was filled, and the beloved one kicked; he grew fat, he grew thick, he grew broad; and he forsook God who made him, and turned away from God his Savior. **read ›**

49 **Joshua 24:4** and I gave him Isaac, and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. And I gave Esau Mount Seir to inherit; and Jacob and his sons went down into Egypt, and there they became a great, numerous, and mighty nation; and the Egyptians mistreated them. **read ›**

50 **2 Kings 13:23** But the Lord had mercy on them and had compassion on them, and he looked on them because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and the Lord was not willing to destroy them, and he did not cast them away from his presence. **read ›**

51 **2 Kings 19:31** For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and one who escapes from Mount Zion; the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this. **read ›**

52 **1 Chronicles 1:34** Abraham fathered Isaac. And the sons of Isaac: Jacob and Esau. **read ›**

53 **1 Chronicles 16:13** O seed of Israel, his servants, sons of Jacob, his chosen ones. **read ›**

54 **Job 9:5** He wears out the mountains, and they do not know it; he overturns them in wrath. **read ›**

55 **Job 9:6** He shakes the earth under heaven from its foundations, and its pillars are shaken. **read ›**

56 **Psalms 13:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

57 **Psalms 13:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

58 **Ecclesiastes 1:2** “Vanity of vanities,” said the Preacher, “vanity of vanities; all is vanity.” **read ›**

59 **Isaiah 10:22** And though the people of Israel are as the sand of the sea, the remnant of them will be saved. **read ›**

60 **Isaiah 11:11** And it shall come to pass in that day that the Lord will again show his hand, to be zealous for the remnant of the people that is left, whatever is left by the Assyrians, and from Egypt, and from Babylonia, and from Ethiopia, and from the Elamites, and from the rising of the sun, and out of Arabia. **read ›**

61 **Isaiah 13:15** For whoever is caught will be overcome, and those who are gathered together will fall by the sword. **read ›**

62 **Isaiah 14:1** And the Lord will have mercy on Jacob, and will yet choose Israel, and they will rest on their land; and the resident foreigner will be added to them, and will be added to the house of Jacob. **read ›**

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63 **Isaiah 15:3** Wrap yourselves in sackcloth in her squares, and lament on her rooftops and in her lanes; all of you, wail with weeping. **read ›**

64 **Isaiah 30:14** And its fall will be like the breaking of an earthenware vessel, like small pieces of a jar, so that no shard will be found among them with which you could take up fire, or with which you could scoop a little water. **read ›**

65 **Isaiah 45:4** For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I will call you by your name and accept you; but you have not known me. **read ›**

66 **Jeremiah 2:9** Therefore I will still enter into judgment with you, and I will enter into judgment with your children's children. **read ›**

67 **Jeremiah 18:2** Arise and go down to the potter's house, and there you will hear my words. **read ›**

68 **Jeremiah 18:3** So I went down to the potter's house, and behold, he was making a work on the stones. **read ›**

69 **Jeremiah 18:4** And the vessel that he was making in his hands fell; and again he made it into another vessel, as it pleased him to make it. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 18:6** Shall I not be able to do with you as this potter does, O house of Israel? Behold, like the potter's clay you are in my hands. **read ›**

71 **Jeremiah 19:1** Then the Lord said to me: Go and buy a potter's clay jar, and take some of the elders of the people and of the priests, **read ›**

72 **Jeremiah 32:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

73 **Jeremiah 46:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

74 **Lamentations 1:6** Waw. And from the daughter of Zion all her majesty has been taken away; her rulers became like rams that find no pasture, and they went on without strength before the pursuer. **read ›**

75 **Ezekiel 10:9** And I looked, and behold, four wheels stood beside the cherubim, one wheel beside each cherub; and the appearance of the wheels was like the appearance of a carbuncle stone. **read ›**

76 **Ezekiel 36:12** And I will beget upon you men, my people Israel, and they shall inherit you, and you shall be their possession; and you shall by no means again be bereaved of them. **read ›**

77 **Ezekiel 37:13** and you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves to bring my people up out of the graves. **read ›**

78 **Amos 1:3** And the Lord said: For three ungodly deeds of Damascus, and for four, I will not turn away from him, because they sawed the women with child of those in Gilead with iron saws. **read ›**

79 **Amos 3:9** Proclaim it to the regions among the Assyrians, and to the regions of Egypt, and say, "Gather yourselves on the mountain of Samaria, and see the many marvels in her midst, and the oppression that is in her." **read ›**

80 **Amos 5:5** But do not seek Bethel, and do not go into Gilgal, and do not cross over to the Well of the Oath; for Gilgal shall surely go into captivity, and Bethel shall be as though it were not. **read ›**

81 **Amos 6:6** who drink strained wine and anoint themselves with the finest ointments, and have suffered nothing over the ruin of Joseph. **read ›**

82 **Amos 9:12** that the remnant of men, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called, may seek earnestly, says the Lord who does all these things. **read ›**

83 **Jonah 2:1** Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the sea creature, (Septuagint Jonah 2:2 (Jonah 2:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

84 **Nahum 2:12** The lion seized enough for his cubs, and strangled prey for his lions, and filled his den with prey, and his dwelling with plunder. (Septuagint Nahum 2:13 (Nahum 2:12 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

85 **Habakkuk 3:5** Before his face a word will go, and it will go out into the plains; **read ›**

86 **1 Esdras 8:57** and twenty golden vessels, and twelve vessels of bronze, of fine bronze, gleaming like gold. **read ›**

87 **Tobit 13:2** For he whips and has mercy; he leads down to Hades and brings up again; and there is no one who will escape his hand. **read ›**

88 **Tobit 13:3** Give thanks to him, you children of Israel, before the nations; for he has scattered us among them. **read ›**

89 **Judith 9:5** For you made the things before those, and those things, and the things after; you planned the things now and the things to come, and what you had in mind came to pass. **read ›**

90 **Judith 9:6** The things you planned stood ready and said, 'Behold, we are here'; for all your ways are prepared, and your judgment is in your foreknowledge. **read ›**

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91 **Wisdom of Solomon 1:3** For crooked thoughts separate from God, and his power, when it is tested, convicts the foolish. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Solomon 3:9** Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will stay with him in love, for grace and mercy are for his chosen ones. **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Solomon 4:15** But the peoples saw and did not understand, nor did they take such a thing to heart, that grace and mercy are with his chosen ones, and visitation with his holy ones. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Solomon 5:5** How has he been counted among the sons of God, and how is his lot among the holy ones? **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Solomon 6:6** For the lowliest may be pardoned in mercy, but the mighty will be mightily examined. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Solomon 11:9** For when they were tested, though they were disciplined in mercy, they learned how the ungodly were tormented when judged in anger. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:7** For a potter, laboriously pressing soft earth, molds each vessel for our service; but from the same clay he has formed both the vessels that serve clean uses and those of the opposite kind, all alike; but the clay-worker is the judge of what the use of each of these shall be. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Solomon 15:13** For this man, more than all others, knows that he sins, when he fashions fragile vessels and carved images from earthy matter. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Solomon 19:1** But merciless wrath pressed upon the ungodly to the end; for he knew beforehand even what they would do: **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:17** Humble your soul greatly. Remember that anger will not delay, for the punishment of the ungodly is fire and worm. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 16:11** Even if there is one stiff-necked man, it will be a marvel if he goes unpunished; for mercy and anger come from him; he is mighty in atonements, and pours out anger. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 18:14** He has mercy on those who accept discipline, and on those who are eager for his judgments. **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 23:20** Before all things were created they were known to him, and so also after they were completed. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 27:5** The furnace tests the potter's vessels, and the testing of a man is in his reasoning. **read ›**

105 **Wisdom of Sirach 33:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

106 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:13** Have compassion on the city of your sanctuary, Jerusalem, the city of your rest. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:18 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:13 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

107 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:17** Hear, O Lord, the plea of those who plead with you, according to the blessing of Aaron over your people, and all who are on the earth will know that you are the Lord, the God of the ages. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:22 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:17 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

108 **Wisdom of Sirach 38:29** So it is with the potter sitting at his work and turning the wheel with his feet, who is always set with care upon his work, and all his work is by number. **read ›**

109 **Wisdom of Sirach 38:30** With his arm he will shape the clay, and bend his strength before his feet; he will apply his heart to finish the glazing, and his sleepless nights go to cleaning the furnace. **read ›**

110 **Wisdom of Sirach 39:18** At his command is all his good pleasure, and there is no one who will lessen his salvation. **read ›**

111 **Wisdom of Sirach 47:22** But the Lord will never forsake his mercy, nor will any of his works perish; he will never blot out the descendants of his chosen one, nor will he take away the seed of him who loved him; and he gave a remnant to Jacob, and to David a root from him. **read ›**

112 **Baruch 4:5** Take courage, my people, O memorial of Israel! **read ›**

113 **2 Maccabees 1:2** May God do good to you, and may he remember his covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, his faithful slaves. **read ›**

114 **4 Maccabees 13:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **4 Maccabees 15:3** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

116 **1 Enoch 1:6** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **1 Enoch 9:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **1 Enoch 41:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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119 **1 Enoch 58:2** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
120 **1 Enoch 62:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
121 **1 Enoch 65:11** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
122 **1 Enoch 98:10** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
123 **1 Enoch 108:7** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**
124 **John 3:17** For God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through him. **read ›**
125 **Acts 4:2** being upset because they taught the people and proclaimed in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. **read ›**
126 **Acts 4:3** They laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was now evening. **read ›**
127 **Acts 5:7** About three hours later, his wife, not knowing what had happened, came in. **read ›**
128 **Acts 10:20** Rise, go down, and go with them without hesitation, for I have sent them." **read ›**
129 **Acts 10:21** Peter went down to the men, and said, "Behold, I am he whom you seek. Why have you come?" **read ›**
130 **Acts 10:22** They said, "Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous man and one who fears God, and well spoken of by all the nation of the Jews, was directed by a holy angel to invite you to his house, and to listen to what you say." **read ›**
131 **Acts 11:11** Behold, immediately three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent from Caesarea to me. **read ›**
132 **Acts 11:12** The Spirit told me to go with them without hesitation. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. **read ›**
133 **Acts 14:1** In Iconium, they entered together into the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of Jews and of Greeks believed. **read ›**
134 **Acts 15:17** that the remnant of men, and all the Gentiles upon whom my name is called, may seek earnestly the Lord, says the Lord who does all these things. **read ›**
135 **Acts 27:12** Since the harbor was unsuitable for wintering, the majority advised sailing from there, hoping somehow to reach Phoenix, a harbor of Crete facing southwest and northwest, and spend the winter there. **read ›**
136 **Acts 27:13** When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their purpose, they weighed anchor and sailed along Crete, close to shore. **read ›**
137 **Romans 6:9** knowing that Christ, being raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over him! **read ›**
138 **Romans 8:29** For whom he foreknew, he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. **read ›**
139 **Romans 8:30** Whom he predestined, those he also called. Whom he called, those he also justified. Whom he justified, those he also glorified. **read ›**
140 **Romans 9:11** For before the children had been born or had done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to choosing might stand, not from works but from him who calls, **read ›**
141 **Romans 9:13** As it is written: I loved Jacob, but Esau I hated. **read ›**
142 **Romans 9:15** For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." **read ›**
143 **Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who has mercy. **read ›**
144 **Romans 9:18** So then, he has mercy on whom he desires, and he hardens whom he desires. **read ›**
145 **Romans 9:19** You will say then to me, "Why does he still find fault? For who withstands his will?" **read ›**
146 **Romans 9:21** Or has not the potter a right over the clay, from the same lump to make one part a vessel for honor, and another for dishonor? **read ›**
147 **Romans 9:22** What if God, willing to show his wrath and to make his power known, endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, **read ›**
148 **Romans 9:23** and did so to make known the riches of his glory on vessels of mercy, which he prepared beforehand for glory— **read ›**
149 **Romans 9:24** us, whom he also called, not from the Jews only, but also from the Gentiles? **read ›**
150 **Romans 9:27** But Isaiah cries out concerning Israel, "Though the number of the children of Israel is as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved; **read ›**

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151 **Romans 11:1** I ask then, did God reject his people? May it never be! For I also am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. **read ›**

152 **Romans 11:5** So then, at the present time too, there is a remnant chosen by grace. **read ›**

153 **Romans 11:7** What then? Israel has not obtained what it seeks, but the chosen ones obtained it, and the rest were hardened, **read ›**

154 **Romans 11:25** For I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you will not be wise in your own eyes: a partial hardening has come upon Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles comes in, **read ›**

155 **Romans 11:28** As regards the gospel, they are enemies for your sake; but as regards God's choosing, they are beloved for the fathers' sake. **read ›**

156 **Romans 11:31** even so these also have now been disobedient, that by the mercy shown to you they may also obtain mercy. **read ›**

157 **Romans 11:32** For God has bound all to disobedience, that he might have mercy on all. **read ›**

158 **1 Corinthians 4:5** Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and make manifest the purposes of hearts. And then each one will receive his praise from God. **read ›**

159 **2 Corinthians 4:2** But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by the manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **read ›**

160 **Ephesians 1:5** having predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, **read ›**

161 **Ephesians 1:11** in him. In him we were also assigned an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, **read ›**

162 **1 Peter 1:2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, that you may obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with his blood: Grace to you and peace be multiplied. **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *157 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Genesis 27:9 · 27:20

Exodus 4:21

Deuteronomy 32:8

Psalms 23:5

Ecclesiastes 7:2

Isaiah 1:20 · 11:6 · 25:6 · 65:25

Ezekiel 11:19

Matthew 4:1 · 5:8 · 5:39 · 8:29 · 9:18 · 9:22 · 10:8 · 10:30 · 14:33 · 15:22 · 15:24 · 15:25 · 15:27 · 15:28 · 17:20 · 19:21 · 19:28 · 20:30 · 22:30 · 22:43 · 23:4 · 23:8 · 23:11 · 23:23 · 24:1 · 24:10 · 24:18 · 24:33 · 24:39 · 24:46 · 25:2 · 25:20 · 25:24 · 25:25 · 25:28 · 26:1 · 26:2 · 26:5 · 26:7 · 26:12 · 26:14 · 26:15 · 26:16 · 26:18 · 26:22 · 26:24 · 26:26 · 26:30 · 26:31 · 26:38 · 26:41 · 26:47 · 26:52 · 26:64 · 26:67 · 26:69 · 27:2 · 27:3 · 27:11 · 27:14 · 27:15 · 27:16 · 27:19 · 27:28 · 27:37 · 27:39 · 27:40 · 27:42 · 27:45 · 27:51 · 27:55 · 27:63 · 28:19

Mark 4:28 · 13:6 · 13:8 · 13:10 · 14:20 · 14:22

Luke 2:20 · 4:34 · 7:12 · 8:46 · 13:16 · 13:28 · 15:11 · 17:5 · 17:6 · 22:3 · 22:16

John 3:6 · 3:13 · 4:46 · 4:48 · 5:39 · 8:56 · 12:3 · 12:8 · 13:35 · 17:21 · 18:11 · 18:26 · 18:39 · 18:40 · 19:17 · 19:19

Acts 2:34 · 3:14

Romans 1:3 · 1:4 · 1:11 · 1:17 · 4:3 · 4:11 · 8:7 · 8:20 · 8:28 · 9:5 · 9:12

1 Corinthians 1:12 · 1:21 · 1:27 · 1:28 · 2:8 · 3:10 · 3:11 · 3:16 · 3:17 · 3:18 · 3:19 · 3:21 · 10:26 · 13:2

2 Corinthians 5:16

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Galatians 4:21 · 4:26 · 5:8
Ephesians 4:13
Philippians 2:7 · 4:18
2 Timothy 1:16 · 2:23
Titus 2:13 · 3:5
1 Peter 2:2
Jude 1:1

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Does Romans 9 teach that God picks each person for salvation or ruin?” on May 19, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY