



The Expanding Reach of Mercy

Romans 9



The Reality of Nineveh: A brutal empire that skinned enemies alive, impaled the conquered, and sacrificed children.



The Shocking Resolution: God forced Jonah to call them to repent. They responded. God spared them.

Jonah's Anger: "I knew it! You are gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and **abounding in mercy."**

Mercy is the Reflection of God's Glory

Moses' Request (Exo 33:18-19)

"Please show me your **glory**."
And God said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you my name..."

God's Answer (Exo 34:6-7)

The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, **a God merciful and gracious...**"

Rom 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.**"

Rom 11:32 - For God has **consigned all** to disobedience, that he may have **mercy on all.**

The Limitation of the Flesh (Ishmael)

- Put into man's hands.
- Only a small subset could ever be saved.

The Boundary of Ancestry

The Power of the Promise (Isaac)

- Only possible by God's hand.

Rom 9:7-8 “it is not the **children of the flesh** who are the children of God, but the **children of the promise** are counted as offspring.”

The Promise Opens the World

Gal 3:16 - “Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, ‘And to offsprings,’ referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,’ who is Christ.”

Works

Dead End:
None can keep
the law

Rom 9:10-11 - "...in order that
God's purpose of election might
continue, **not because of works**
but because of him who calls—"

2 Thes 2:13-14 - "...God chose
you...to be saved...he **called**
you through our gospel"

Salvation

Calling



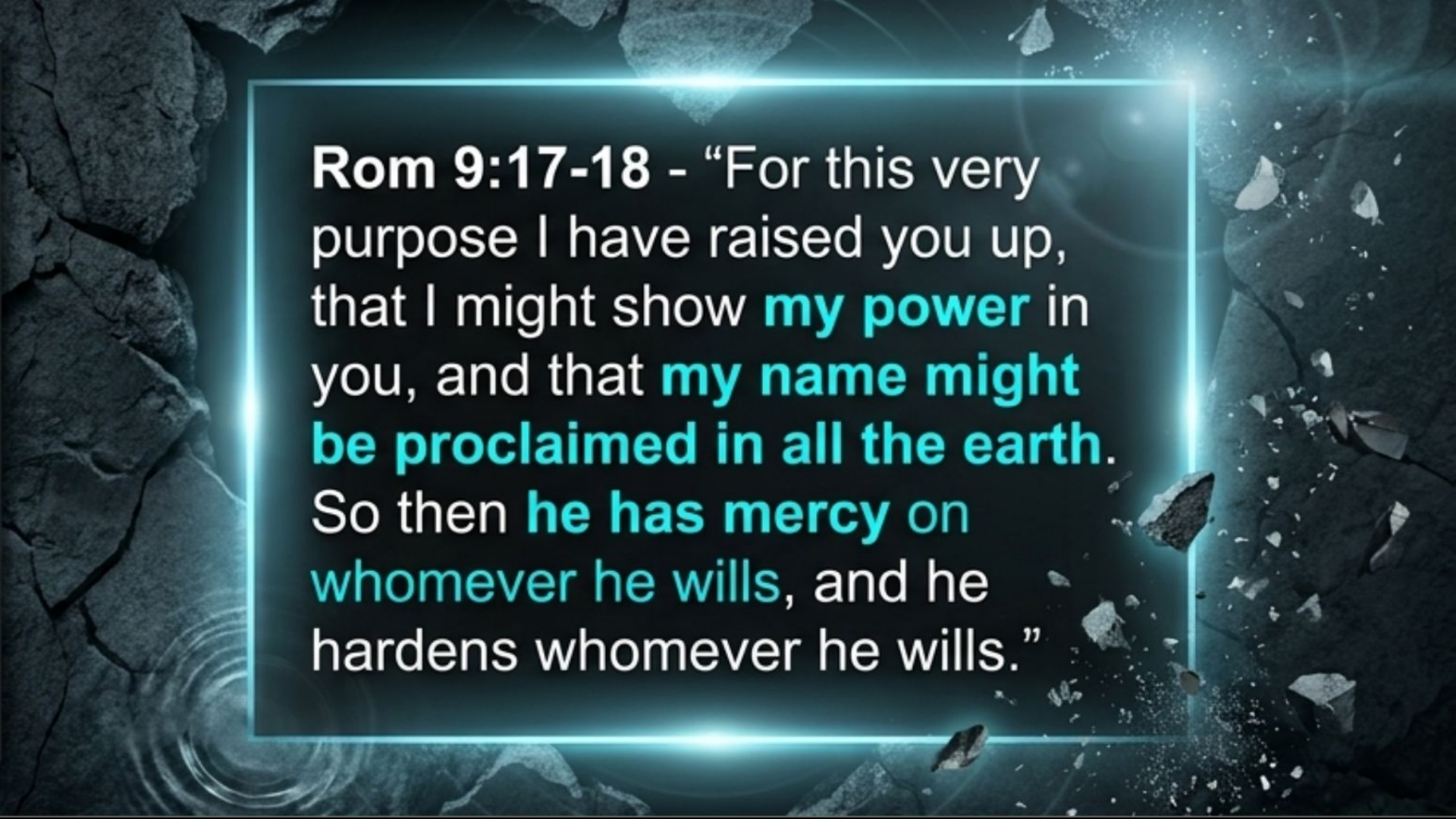
Eph 2:4-5 – But God, being rich in

MERCY...

made us alive together with Christ

Tit 3:5 – He saved us... according to
his own **MERCY**

1Pe 1:3 – According to his great
MERCY,
he has caused us to be born again

The background is a dark, textured surface resembling cracked stone or asphalt. A bright blue rectangular frame is centered on the image, containing white and blue text. The text is a quote from the Bible, with certain words highlighted in blue. The overall mood is dramatic and spiritual.

Rom 9:17-18 - “For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I might show **my power** in you, and that **my name might be proclaimed in all the earth**. So then **he has mercy on whomever he wills**, and he hardens whomever he wills.”

Ex 8:15 - But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he **hardened his heart...**

Ex 8:32 - But Pharaoh **hardened his heart** this time also, and did not let the people go.

Ex 9:34 - Pharaoh.....sinned yet again and **hardened his heart**, he and his servants

Echoes across 40 years...



The Hardening: God raises up Pharaoh to show His power at the Red Sea.



The Reach: **Rahab** (a Canaanite prostitute) hears of the Red Sea, **believes**, is saved, and enters the family tree of **Jesus**.

The Result: Rebellion and hard hearts are woven into God's purpose of expanding mercy to the outsider.

Just as with Pharaoh, the current partial hardening serves a grander purpose of inclusion.



Rom 11:25 - "...I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a **partial hardening** has come upon Israel, **until the fullness** of the Gentiles has come in."

The Bottom Line vs. 30-31

Gentiles who did
not pursue
righteousness
have attained it by
faith

Israel who
pursued a law that
would lead to
righteousness did
not succeed

32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. **They have stumbled over the stumbling stone,** 33 as it is written, “Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and **whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.**”

The Grand Equalizer: Consigned to Mercy

Rom 11:32 - "For God has consigned all to disobedience, that he may have mercy on all."



Unsearchable Judgments:

Digging deep, but never reaching the bottom.



Inscrutable Ways:

Untraceable tracks; footprints you cannot follow back to their source.