

The objects of God's mercy

In the previous article, we learned that there is no unrighteousness in God's sovereign choice because God's free will and mercy are at work in God's sovereign choice. This election of God was at work in people like Abraham and Moses, who had faith, and also in people like Pharaoh in Egypt, who were against those who believed, right? Today we continue on and go out in more detail for the salvation of the Gentiles.

Verses 19-24 God's sovereignty is compared in relation to the potter and the objects.

v.19 No one can resist God's plan.

v.20 The relationship of the creature to the Creator, the One who formed it.

v.21 The creature cannot resist the absolute sovereignty of the Creator.

Parable of the potter ([Isaiah45:9,10](#)).

v.22 The objects of wrath to be destroyed refer to us Gentile Christians.

Example: Korean potters are characterized by breaking pottery at the slightest failure.

v. 23 The vessels of mercy are us, Christians.

Example: The traditional craft of kintsugi in Japanese traditional culture is said to take great care in making and repairing even if it is broken.

God waited for the Gentiles with abundant generosity and patience.

v. 24: Jewish Christians and Christians of Gentile background.

That the Israelites were like Pharaoh in Egypt is understood in the parable of the laborers in the vineyard in [Matthew 20](#). Jesus tells us in verse 16, "So the last will be first, and the first will be last." He teaches us that the first will be first, and the second will be last. Thus, the Jews received God's Word first, but it was the Gentiles who believed and their salvation spread to the Gentiles who came later, right?

Verses 25-26 My people, my loved one, and sons of the living God

The prophet Hosea was called by God to take Gomer, a Canaanite temple prostitute, as his wife, and despite her repeated unfaithfulness, he continued to love her as his wife, thereby embodying God's love for the people of northern Israel and southern Judah. The book of Hosea expresses God's love for us, the Gentiles, by continuing to love us. Paul indicates from the scriptures quoted in Hosea that God has a plan for the salvation of the Gentiles as well as the content of Israel and Judah being forgiven by God and freed from slavery.

v. 25 [Hosea 2:23](#).

"I will plant her for myself in the land; I will show my love to the one I called 'Not my

loved one.' I will say love to those called 'Not my people, 'You are my people'; and they will say, 'You are my God.'" The expression "unloved" implies that the Gentiles were originally under God's judgment while they had not yet been invited into God's plan of salvation. But God loved the Gentiles, and the Gentiles responded to God in love.

v. 26 Hosea 1:10b.

'In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called, 'sons of the living God.'" The Gentiles were also saved and privileged to become "sons of God."

Verses 27-29: Example of Isaiah's Remnant (Isaiah 10:22)

v. 27: Isaiah 10:22 "Though your people, O Israel, be like the sand by the sea, only a remnant will return. Destruction has been decreed, overwhelming and righteous."

This refers to the people of Samaria, the descendants of Abraham, who became as many as the sand on the seashore (Genesis 12:2, 22:7). It is a prophecy that only a few of the northern Israelites who were taken captive from Assyria (735-715 BC) will return.

The origin of the restorative faith comes from the fact that God left 7,000 people who were faithful followers of God in Elijah (1 Kings 19:18). This faith in the remnant is the hope of Japanese evangelism. There will always be friends of faith, and there are quite a few.

v.28 God is working hastily to provide these remnant people.

v. 29 Isaiah 1:9 "Unless the Lord Almighty had left us some survivors, we would be like Sodom, we would have been like Gomorrah."

Abraham prayed for intercession to save Sodom and Gomorrah, but there were not ten righteous men there and they all perished and only Lot's family escaped (Genesis 18). But God gave the rest to Israel. We ourselves should have faith in Jesus Christ and be the rest that God leaves behind.

Verses 30-31: Righteousness by faith

v.30: The Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness by the law eventually became righteous. That is, righteousness by faith. They were justified and saved simply by believing in Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

v.31 But Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, failed to attain the righteousness that God desired. Because they pursued salvation by works and not by faith in Jesus Christ.

Verses 32-33 "stumbling stone is Jesus"

v.32 Israel stumbled over a stumbling stone. The stumbling stone is Jesus Christ.

Galatians 5:4, "You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace."

v.33 Isaiah 28:16 "So this is what the Sovereign Lord says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed."

Believe in Jesus Christ and you will be saved.

Conclusion

- (1) God has a plan to save not only Israel but also the Gentiles. This is God's sovereign and absolute plan, even if Israel is dissatisfied with it. In fact, this plan has been fulfilled for 2,000 years, and the gospel has been preached to us Japanese and Koreans.
- (2) The mercy objects, Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ are also given the privilege to become God's children and inherit the Kingdom of God.
- (3) God has left those who believe in Jesus Christ from both Israel and the Gentiles. This remnant faith gives us hope for gospel evangelism.
- (4) The gospel of Jesus Christ is a blessing to those who believe, but a stumbling block to those who do not believe.

Let's pray together.

Beloved Heavenly Father! Thank you for inviting even us Gentiles to salvation. Thank you for this grace to inherit the Kingdom of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Please invite our families, neighbors, and all the unbelievers in the world to this salvation. We pray that Israel will not stumble because of Jesus Christ, and that all will be saved by believing in Him. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.