

## God's Purpose and Prerogative – Part 1

### Introduction

- The book of Job reveals two perspectives on life's circumstances – human & divine.
  - People have opinions, speculations, recommendations & questions about life's circumstances.
  - God has plans, purposes & answers for circumstances of life = **glory to God**.
  - God created everything & sustains everything for His own purpose (Rom. 11:36).
- I. God's Purpose is Unlimited (Rom. 9:10-11a)

A. Excludes people limitations (Rom. 9:10)

*It involves people in every generation. Paul has already explained that God's purpose for Isaac & Ishmael was different (v. 6-9) – not determined by natural reasons = same father & different mothers. The primary difference between Isaac & Ishmael was God's plan & purpose for them. Isaac received blessings in this life & eternal life; Ishmael received only temporary blessings. God's purpose does not change because of the particular people involved (v. 10) – twins [same father & mother]. No one at any time or anywhere is ever born without a divine purpose (God alone knows).*

B. Excludes time limitations (Rom. 9:11a)

*God is not limited by time & his decisions are not affected by time – He has unlimited knowledge & power at any point in time or eternity. His wisdom & power do not increase or diminish with time. Time is not a factor in God's choice, plans & purpose for any individual – “though they were not yet born”.*

**APPL:** Because God is eternal (unlimited), His purposes are unlimited. God establishes His plans & purposes for peoples' lives long before they are ever born – Jer. 1:5; Gal. 1:15. And God's plans & purposes for people do not change because He does not change (Mal. 3:6)!

II. God's Purpose is Unconditional (Rom. 9:11b-13)

A. Excludes a person's merit & deeds (Rom. 9:11b)

*God's purpose here is specifically “election” or choice in salvation. God's choice of people for His purpose is independent of a person's actions in life – “either good or bad”. It is not based on God's knowledge of a person's future actions or potential. God's purpose is certain & fixed without any future change – “might continue”. God never makes an error in election & never needs to change His mind. This is encouragement for those of us who have made & will make awful mistakes in life – God did not make a mistake in choosing you.*

B. Involves God's glory & prerogative (Rom. 9:11b-13)

*God's purpose in choosing some & not others is only known by Him– “because of him who calls”. It only brings glory to Him & completely removes pride from people chosen. God's purpose defines a person's role in life or lifestyle – “The older will serve the younger”. Believers are chosen to do the will of God in life (Rom. 12:1-2). God has the authority (prerogative) to accept some people & reject others – “Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated”.*

**ILL:** When an artist chooses a blank canvas for his painting, it's not because the canvas has impressed the artist with what it can do. The canvas does not know the size, colors, details, design, contours & nuances of the painting – all that is in the mind of the artist. Therefore he chooses a blank canvas that fit his purpose for the painting in his mind. Therefore when people see the painting, the praise belongs to the artist not the canvas.

**APPL:** The same is true between God & people. What God plans to make of a person when He chooses them is only know by God. Every person is like a blank canvas to God & therefore He can choose any canvas that He wants to create a work of art for His glory... (Eph. 2:10).