

Why did Jesus not pray for Judas like He did for Peter so that Judas might be saved also? Why did God harden the Pharaoh's heart--brought Him up just to destroy Him? Why did he hate Esau? Can God not change their hearts just like he does with everybody else? I really feel God is unfair and just wants His glory even if it means sending someone to hell forever. That's really cruel!

Jesus chose Judas to be one of his disciples (Mk 3:14, 19) because he was evil (Jn 13:18, Ac 1:16). It was prophesied that one would betray him (Ps 41:9). Judas filled this role.

Pharaoh was also evil. God would reveal the hardness which was *already* in his heart (Ex 4:21–23).

Each of these men had the opportunity to repent before the Lord. God wishes for every man to repent (2 Pe 3:9). Unfortunately, not all humble themselves before him (Mt 7:14).

God decides when one has received his last call to himself (Ge 6:3). One should not miss his day of visitation which is an offer to life (Lk 19:44).

Would God have preferred that Judas and Pharaoh repent? Of course—love is greater than prophecy (1 Jn 4:16). Had each repented, then God would have found another way to fulfill prophecy. Unfortunately, there is no shortage of evil men to assist God in fulfilling prophecy (Ro 9:21).

Regarding Romans 9:13, J. Vernon McGee wrote:

This is a quotation from the last book in the Old Testament (see Mal. 1:2–3).¹ This statement was not made until the two boys had lived their lives and two nations had come from them, which was about two thousand years later, and much history had been made...

...It is easy to see why God rejected Esau, friend. He was a rascal; he was a godless fellow, filled with pride, and from him came a nation that wanted to live without God and turned their backs upon Him...²

God has enemies. Esau made himself one of them. He was then unable to repent (Heb. 12:16, 17). First men *will not* repent; then, they *cannot* repent. In the Day of the Lord God will allow the unsaved to be deceived because they rejected the truth (2 Thess 2:10–12).

Jesus does not pray for the world. He prays for his own (Jn 17:9). His intercessory prayer is for them (Jn 17:1–26). God does not hear the prayer of the wicked (Pr 15:29). He has sent the Holy Spirit into the world to convict men of: sin, righteousness and judgment (Jn 16:7–11). When one is conscious of his guilt before God (Mt 9:13), then he can be saved (Ac 2:37, 38).

God is just (Deut. 32:4). He gives men a will (Ge 2:17); so that love is real (Ac 17:27). He will not insist that men love him (Jn 3:19).

Hell was made for the devil and his angels (Mt 25:41) not men. Still, some men insist on going there (Re 21:8).

¹ As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated [Rom. 9:13].

² McGee, J. V. (1991). Thru the Bible commentary: The Epistles (Romans 9-16) (electronic ed., Vol. 43, p. 30). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

