

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

ROMANS 36 - WHO CAN RESIST GOD?

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ROMANS 9:19-26

PROLOGUE: GOD'S WILL OF ELECTION

- PAUL USES REBEKAH'S TRAVAIL AS A METAPHOR SHOWING THAT PEOPLE DO NOT INFLUENCE NOR CHANGE GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION; GOD ACTS ACCORDING TO HIS OWN COUNSEL
 - WILL {ΠΡΟΘΕΣΙΣ PROTHESIS} – THAT WHICH IS DETERMINED AND CARRIED THROUGH TO COMPLETION; EACH EVENT METICULOUSLY IMPLEMENTED AND NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS (EP 1:3-10)
 - GOD'S WILL, DETERMINED IN ETERNITY PAST WHEN HE WAS ALONE, AND DISPLAYED FROM CREATION TO ETERNITY FUTURE; THE BIBLE DETAILS THE UNFOLDING OF HIS WILL DESPITE SINNERS
 - PAUL SHOWS THAT GOD'S ELECTING WILL IN THE PAST, ABRAHAM AND REBEKAH, CONTINUES INTO THE FUTURE BASED NOT ON MAN'S WORKS BUT ON GOD'S CALLING; PHRASE "MIGHT CONTINUE REINFORCES THAT ELECTION CAN ONLY SUCCEED BASED ON GOD WHO IS OUTSIDE CREATION

PROLOGUE: FAIR IS NOT A BIBLICAL CONCEPT

- HUMAN NATURE CRIES “FOUL,” GOD IS NOT FAIR IN THAT HE SAVES SOME; BUT, FAIR WOULD HAVE EVERY SINNER IN LAKE OF FIRE FOR ONE’S OWN SIN
 - GOD WAS ALONE, BEFORE CREATION, WHEN HE DETERMINED WHOM TO SAVE (EP 1:3-10)
 - GOD TOLD MOSES, AND THUS THE JEWS, THAT HE IS A GOD OF MERCY AND COMPASSION
(EX 33:18-23; 34:5-9)
 - FOR UNIVERSALISM TO SUCCEED, EVERY PERSON WOULD HAVE TO BE MADE EXACTLY THE SAME AND BE GIVEN EXACTLY THE SAME ILLUMINATION; I.E., AUTOMATONS OF SOCIALISTIC EQUALITY
 - SINNERS DO NOT WANT EVERYONE SAVED, JUST SELF, FOR THAT IS THE ONLY GOAL THAT MATTERS TO SINNERS; EQUALITY IS SIMPLY A MEANS TO KEEP OTHERS FROM BEING EQUAL TO YOU

PROLOGUE: DOES GOD HARDEN PEOPLE?

- FIRST, MAN HARDENS HIS OWN HEART VIA UNGODLINESS; I.E., THE ABSOLUTE REJECTION OF GOD AND HIS TRUTH WITH THE SUBSTITUTION OF GOD'S TRUTH WITH MAN'S PHILOSOPHIES

(HE 3:7-11; 4:1-10)

- GOD GIVES THE UNCALLED OVER TO LIVE THE LIVES THEY CHOOSE; HE GIVES THEM UP (RO 1:18-25)
- GOD DOES NOT *HIDE* THE TRUTH BUT THE TRUTH TO THE LOST IS FOOLISHNESS (1CO 1:18, 28-29; 2:14)
- SATAN DOES HIDE THE GOSPEL FROM THE LOST; GOD ALLOWS THIS BECAUSE THE LOST WANT TO BELIEVE IN MYTHS TO THEIR DESTRUCTION RATHER THAN THE GOSPEL (2CO 4:3-4; 2TH 2:9-12; 2TI 3:1-7; 4:3-4)
- BASICALLY, GOD DOES NOT DISSUADE; HE ALLOWS THE LOST THEIR LIES (LK 16:27-31)

PAUL ASKS MAN'S NATURAL QUESTION ON ELECTION

- GOD EXPECTS CHRISTIANS TO ASK QUESTIONS OF HIM SO THE SPIRIT MAY TEACH US (MT 7:7-11)
 - THE QUESTION ONE ASKS REVEALS THE INTENTS OF ONE'S HEART: SAVED OR LOST
 - PAUL ASKS THE QUESTION FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LOST PERSON, PRESUPPOSING THAT GOD FINDS FAULT WITH PEOPLE; I.E., LOOKS FOR MEANS TO CONDEMN SINNERS TO DEATH (EZ 33:11)
 - HE FOLLOWS UP WITH A CHARGE AGAINST GOD, "WHO CAN RESIST HIS WILL?" AS LOST MAN NATURALLY WILL
 - THE SINNER'S BLAMES GOD FOR ONE'S SIN RATHER THAN ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY AND ASK FORGIVENESS WHICH GOD WANTS TO GIVE

SINNER'S UNGODLINESS OPENLY DISPLAYED

- SINNERS, SAVED AND LOST, HAVE LITTLE SHAME AND GLADLY SEEK TO SHIFT THE BLAME OF THEIR SIN FROM THEMSELVES TO OTHERS, ESPECIALLY GOD
 - MAN {ADAM}, WHO DELIBERATELY SINNED, BLAMED BOTH GOD AND WOMAN {EVE} FOR HIS SIN
(GE 3:11-12)
 - AFTER GOD GRACIOUSLY THE HEBREWS OUT OF EGYPT, THEY CONSISTENTLY TESTED AND BLAMED HIM, AND MOSES, FOR THEIR APPARENT DEPRIVATIONS (EX 17:1-7; PS 95:7-11; HE 3:7-12)
 - NEARLY EVERY PERSON WHO CAME OUT OF EGYPT DIED IN THEIR SIN IN THE WILDERNESS DUE TO THEIR UNBELIEF WHICH CONSTANTLY AND CONSISTENTLY BLAMED GOD RATHER THAN LOOK TO HIM FOR HELP IN FAITH

EVIL PEOPLE SEEK EVIL IN GOD

- THESE TWO QUESTIONS REVEAL THE SINFULNESS, EVIL, IN SINNER'S HEARTS; SINCE THEY DO NOT SEEK FORGIVENESS, THEY SEEK TO SHOW THAT GOD IS EVIL {THEODICY}
 - ONLY A GOD CAN CHARGE A GOD WITH GOOD OR EVIL
 - SATAN'S *LIE* TO WOMAN WAS THAT GAINING KNOWLEDGE WOULD MAKE HER A GOD (GE 3:5)
 - THUS, SINNERS REVEAL THEIR TRUE HEARTS' INTENTS WHEN THEY *TEST* GOD, TO FIND HIM GUILTY OF THEIR SIN TO ABSOLVE THEMSELVES (DE 6:16; PS 78:17-22; 95:9; MT 4:7; HE 3:8-9)
 - THEY SEEK TO PUT GOD ON THE DEFENSIVE, TO HAVE HIM DEFEND HIMSELF VIA THEIR FALSE DILEMMA {IMPLIES GOD IS THE SOURCE OF THEIR SIN RATHER THAN THEMSELVES}

GOD REJECTS THE SINNER'S FALSE DILEMMA

- GOD IGNORES THE CHARGES OF THE SINNER(S) AND THEIR ATTEMPT TO *PROVE* THEY ARE ABOVE HIM IN THEIR ACCUSATION {SATAN} OF HIM BEING THE SOURCE OF EVIL
 - GOD, VIA PAUL, REFERS TO THE METAPHOR OF THE POTTER, WHICH IS GOD, AND THE CLAY, WHICH IS CREATION INCLUDING MANKIND, THE REASON FOR CREATION (IS 64:8; JE 18:1-6)
 - ACTUALLY, THIS IS MORE THAN A METAPHOR SINCE GOD LITERALLY MADE DIRT {CLAY} AND FROM THE DIRT FASHIONED MAN BEFORE HE CLONED WOMAN FROM MAN (GE 2:7, 21-22)
 - HE IS THE REAL POTTER AND MANKIND IS ACTUALLY THE CLAY; GOD LITERALLY FASHIONS EACH PERSON INDIVIDUALLY AS HE *WILLS* ACCORDING TO HIS OWN COUNSEL; WITHOUT CONSULTING MANKIND

SINNERS TRY TO BE POTTERS

- FROM ANCIENT TIMES SINNERS, LIKE *FALSE JEWS* WHO HAD GOD'S TRUTH, STOOD IN JUDGMENT OF GOD; THIS WAS THE ISSUE AT MERIBAH (IS 29:16)
 - JEWISH HISTORY WAS CONSISTENTLY MARKED BY THE *FALSE JEWS* SEEKING TO MAKE GOD THE CLAY AND THEMSELVES THE POTTERS WHILE HE DEALT WITH THEM IN PATIENCE
 - THIS IS WHY THEY REJECTED CHRIST, MESSIAH; HE DID NOT MEET THEIR CRITERIA OF CONQUERING MESSIAH, WITH THEMSELVES AS HIS LEADERS TO GUIDE HIS CONQUESTS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE
 - THEY SOUGHT TO ENSLAVE THE WORLD TO THEMSELVES, NOT SPREAD GOD'S MESSAGE OF LIFE
 - WORKS-BASED RELIGIONS SEEK TO ENSLAVE EVERYONE ELSE TO THEMSELVES IN A SIMILAR FASHION {CHRISTENDOM, ISLAM, ETC.}

GOD CLARIFIES HIS RELATIONSHIP TO MANKIND

- GOD REJECTS SINFUL MAN'S PREMISE AND ASKS EACH OF US, AS HE ASKED OF JOB, WHY WE SEEK TO BE GODS OVER GOD
 - HE MAKES CLEAR THAT HE MADE MANKIND AND THAT HE FASHIONS EACH PERSON AS HE WILLS
 - HE ASKS ON WHAT BASIS DO EACH OF US HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO DEMAND *ANYTHING* OF GOD
 - GOD BASES HIS ANSWER ON THE CONCEPT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS INNATE TO MAN'S IDEA OF POSSESSION
 - DOES NOT THE ONE WHO HAS OWNERSHIP HAVE THE RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF HIS PROPERTY AS HE DESIRES? THEIR ANSWER WOULD BE YES; WHEREAS PEOPLE CANNOT OWN PEOPLE, ALL PEOPLE BELONG TO GOD WHO IS CREATOR OR POTTER

GOD HAS INNATE AUTHORITY OVER MANKIND

- GOD CLEARLY STATES HE, AS CREATOR, HAS AUTHORITY IN AND OF HIMSELF TO MAKE PEOPLE AS HE WILLS
 - HE MAKES {ELECTS} SOME PEOPLE FOR SALVATION – HONORABLE VESSELS
 - HE DOES NOT MAKE {DOES NOT ELECT} OTHER PEOPLE FOR SALVATION – CHAMBER POTS
 - THIS IS NOT BASED ON THE WORKS OF ANY PERSON BUT ON THE WILL OF GOD
 - THE VESSELS OF WRATH ARE SHOWN MUCH PATIENCE THOUGH THEY ARE GOING TO DESTRUCTION BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN, WHICH THEY EMBRACE
 - THIS MAGNIFIES THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY AND MERCY REVEALED IN THOSE WHOM HE HAS SAVED: BOTH FROM THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES

GOD REFERS THE READER TO HOSEA {JOSHUA}

- HOSEA, ACTUALLY JOSHUA (HE) OR JESUS (GK), WAS SENT TO BUY BACK HIS WIFE WHO BECAME A PROSTITUTE AND RESTORE HER AS HIS WIFE; THEY HAD TWO CHILDREN WHOM WERE NAMED BY GOD: NOT MY PEOPLE AND NO MERCY (HO 2:23)
 - JEWS INTERPRETED THIS AS GOD REFERRING TO THEM ONLY WHEN HE WILL REDEEM THEM IN THE LATTER DAYS TO BRING THEM INTO HIS MILLENNIAL KINGDOM
 - PAUL SHOWS THAT IT ALSO REFERS TO THE GENTILES WHO ALSO WERE NOT GOD'S PEOPLE AND WERE DESERVING OF NO MERCY FOR THEIR SIN; YET, HE WILL REDEEM THOSE ELECTED FOR LIFE BOTH FROM THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES
 - CHRIST REVEALED THIS WHEN HE SPOKE OF HIS SHEEP FROM OTHER FOLDS (JO 10:15-16)

CHRIST'S LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

- CHRIST'S PARABLE OF THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD ILLUSTRATES GOD'S ROLE AS POTTER OVER ALL HE HAS CREATED (MT 20:1-16)
 - OWNER OF A VINEYARD NEEDED LABORERS FOR THE HARVEST AND CONTRACTED WITH LABORERS FOR ONE DAY'S WAGES IN THE MORNING, LATER IN THE MORNING, AT NOON, IN THE AFTERNOON AND FINALLY IN THE EVENING
 - HE STARTING PAYING THE LABORERS MOVING FROM THOSE HIRED LAST TO THOSE HIRED FIRST
 - THOSE HIRED FIRST FELT CHEATED BECAUSE THEY WORKED LONGER AND ENDURED GREATER HARDSHIPS BUT GOT THE SAME WAGE AS THOSE WHO WERE HIRED LAST AND WORKED LITTLE

LABORERS {SINNERS} COMPLAIN AGAINST GOD

- MASTER DEFENDS CLARIFIES THE ERROR OF THE LABORERS CLAIMS BEGINNING WITH HIS ADDRESS TO THEM
 - FRIEND {ἘΤΑΙΡΟΣ HETAIROS} SHOWS A LINK, A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE OWNER AND THOSE BEING ADDRESSED; A CONNECTION THAT IS ALSO HIERARCHICAL IN NATURE
 - MASTER ADDRESSES THEM GENTLY, BUT FIRMLY, TELLING THEM HE HAD NOT WRONGED THEM
 - ALL *AGREED* TO WORK FOR A DAY'S WAGES; ALL RECEIVED A DAY'S WAGES
 - COULD NOT THE MASTER DISPOSE OF HIS GOODS AS HE CHOSE
 - THEIR CHARGE ONLY SHOWED THEIR COVETOUSNESS, THEIR SIN WHICH THEY PROJECTED ONTO THE MASTER AS THE ONE DOING WRONG {SOUND FAMILIAR?}

DAY'S WAGES IS SALVATION

- CHRIST IS THE MASTER {POTTER} WHO GIVES SALVATION TO THOSE WHOM HE WILLS
 - THERE IS ONLY ONE SALVATION FOR EVERYONE: NEW COVENANT SALVATION ALL SAVED WILL POSSESS IN ETERNITY FUTURE
 - JEWS DID ENDURE GREAT DEPRIVATION DURING MUCH OF MAN'S HISTORY, TO DATE; BUT, GOD ONLY PROMISED THEM *NEW COVENANT SALVATION* WHICH THEY HAVE YET TO RECEIVE
(JE 31:31-33; HE 11:13, 39-40)
 - THEY WERE NOT REJOICING THAT THEY WERE INVITED TO THE LAMB'S MARRIAGE SUPPER BUT WERE COMPLAINING THAT GENTILES WERE ALSO INVITED AND ON PAR WITH THEM (AC 15:10)
 - PUTTING GOD TO THE TEST ONLY RESULTS IN LEANNESS TO THE SOUL (PS 106:14-15)

PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

- CHRIST GAVE ANOTHER PARABLE SHOWING HOW THE LOST SEEK TO INFILTRATE INTO GOD'S SALVATION WITHOUT UNDERGOING A CHANGED NATURE: PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST

(MT 22:1-14)

- MANY INVITED TO THE WEDDING OF THE KING'S SON REFUSED, REFERRING TO THE JEWS
- KING RETALIATED AGAINST THEM FOR THEIR CRIMES AGAINST THOSE THE KING SENT TO CALL THEM
- THEN THE KING SENT HIS SLAVES INTO THE ROADS TO CALL ANYONE THEY COULD FIND: GOOD AND BAD {PRONEIA}
- WALKING AMONG THE GUESTS THE KING FOUND A PERSON WHO WAS NOT WEARING A WEDDING GARMENT AND ASKED HIM HOW HE GOT INTO THE WEDDING

LOST SEEK TO INFILTRATE INTO GOD'S SALVATION

- THE FATHER IS THE KING AND CHRIST IS THE SON WHILE THE FEAST IS FOR THE WEDDING BETWEEN THE SON AND HIS BRIDE {ALL SAVED} (RE 19:1-9; 21:1-3)
 - ANCIENT JEWISH WEDDING – ALL GUESTS WORE A SPECIAL GARMENT SHOWING THEY WERE INVITED AND THUS ENTITLED TO FOOD AND DRINK; UNINVITED WOULD NOT A GARMENT
 - THE *GARMENT* IS BEING CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN OUR WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AND THE SPIRIT {CHARISMA}
 - THE LOST WOULD BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE CLOTHED ONLY IN THEIR WORKS, FILTHY MENSTRUAL RAGS; I.E., THE WRONG BLOOD, BLOOD OF THE FLESH (IS 64:6; RE 20:11-15)
 - KING ADDRESSES THE LOST AS, *FRIEND*, GENTLY BUT FIRMLY HAS HIM EJECTED INTO DARKNESS
(RE 21:8, 22-27; 22:14-15, 17)

EPILOGUE: GOD HAS INNATE AUTHORITY OVER MANKIND

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DID GOD ANSWER THEIR QUESTIONS?

- DID GOD ANSWER THE TWO QUESTIONS PAUL ASKED FROM THE LOST PERSPECTIVE? YES!
 - GOD NEVER DEFINES OR JUSTIFIES HIMSELF IN THE BIBLE
 - GENESIS BEGINS WITH GOD WITHOUT ANY JUSTIFICATION OF GOD OR DEFENSE OF HIM
 - GOD STATES THAT HE IS CREATOR GOD AND THAT IS SUFFICIENT FOR THE CREATED (IS 45:9)
 - PEOPLE SEEK TO JUSTIFY THEMSELVES BY ACCUSING {SATAN} OR ELIMINATING GOD (IS 29:16)
 - FAIRNESS IS SIMPLY SINFUL PEOPLE SEEKING TO JUSTIFY SELF WHILE CONDEMNING GOD; YET, THEY CLAIM PREROGATIVES FOR THEMSELVES THAT THEY DENY TO GOD – PROPERTY RIGHTS
 - IN THE END, GOD'S WILL PREVAILS WITH THE LOST CONSIGNED TO OUTER DARKNESS IN THE LAKE OF FIRE COMFORTED ONLY BY THEIR OWN RAGS OF WORKS AS THEY REJECTED CHRIST'S BLOOD