

URGENT

CIRCA ROMAE  
1st century  
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R o m a n s

**Acts 27:20-25** When neither sun nor stars appeared for many days and the storm continued raging, we finally gave up all hope of being saved. After the men had gone a long time without food, Paul stood up before them and said: "Men, you should have taken my advice not to sail from Crete; then you would have spared yourselves this damage and loss. But now I urge you to keep up your courage, because not one of you will be lost; only the ship will be destroyed. Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. "

**Acts 27:30-31** In an attempt to escape from the ship, the sailors let the lifeboat down into the sea, pretending they were going to lower some anchors from the bow. Then Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, “Unless these men stay with the ship, you cannot be saved.”

**1. Can God be trusted?**

**2. Is God just?**

**3. Does he have the right to judge  
us?**

**Rom. 9:6 It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel.**

**Rom. 9:14-18** What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all! For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.” It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy. For the Scripture says to Pharaoh: “I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth.” Therefore God has mercy on whom he wants to have mercy, and he hardens whom he wants to harden.

**Job 38:1-5** Then the LORD answered Job out of the storm. He said: “Who is this that darkens my counsel with words without knowledge? Brace yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer me. “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me, if you understand. Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it?

**Rom. 9:19 One of you will say to me: “Then why does God still blame us? For who resists his will?”**



**Rom. 9:20-21 But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? “Shall what is formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why did you make me like this?’” Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?**

**Rom. 9:22-23** What if God, choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath — prepared for destruction?

What if he did this to make the riches of his glory known to the objects of his mercy, whom he prepared in advance for glory.

**But to be fully biblical you must embrace both his sovereignty and your own responsibility.**



**1. You don't have to have it all  
figured out.**

**2. You do have to decide what will be the standard for what you will believe.**

**3. Thinking we can judge God says something about what we believe about ourselves.**

**4. We don't have to yield in our hearts to reality but we will ultimately yield in our lives to it.**



**5. Though it is difficult to get our minds around this, it is not difficult to know what we should do with it.**

**Trust AND Obey**

**Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**

**John 6:66 From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him.**

**Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."**