

Romans Series

Lesson #115

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Dr. Robert L. Dean, Jr.

# The Epistle to the ROMANS

## Hardening, the Potter, and the Stumbling Stone Romans 9:20–33



**Rom. 9:15, “For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.’**

**Rom. 9:16, “So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.”**

**Ex. 7:3, “And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and multiply My signs and My wonders in the land of Egypt.”**

**Ex. 13:15, “And it came to pass, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all males that open the womb, but all the firstborn of my sons I redeem.’ ”**

**Rom. 1:20, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,**

**Rom. 1:21, “because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.**

**Rom. 1:22, “Professing to be wise, they became fools,”**

**Rom. 1:23, “and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.**

**Rom. 1:24, “Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves,**

**Rom. 1:25, “who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.”**

**Rom. 9:17, “For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.’ ”**

**Rom. 9:17, “For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh, ‘For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.’ ”**

**Ex. 9:16, “But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth.”**

**Ex. 3:19, “But I am sure that the king of Egypt will not let you go, no, not even by a mighty hand.”**

**חזק** *chzq*

**to be strong** *be(come) strong, strengthen, prevail, harden, be courageous, be sore (meaning be severe).*

**כבד** *kaved* **heavy, severe**

**קשה** *qshh* **to be hard**

**Rom. 9:18, “Therefore He has mercy on whom  
He wills [Moses], and whom He wills He  
hardens [Pharaoh].”**

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He wills [Moses], and whom He wills He  
hardens [Pharaoh].”**

**σκληρύνω *sklērunō***

**pres act indic 3 sing  
to harden; to make stubborn**

# Uses of חזק *chzq* and not translated “Harden”

**Isa. 35:3, “Encourage the exhausted, and  
strengthen the feeble.**

**Isa. 35:4, “Say to those with anxious heart,  
‘Take courage, fear not.’ ”**

**Isa. 41:7,**

**“So the craftsman encourages the smelter,  
And he who smooths metal with the hammer  
encourages him who beats the anvil,”**

**Ezek. 13:22, “Because you disheartened the righteous with falsehood when I did not cause him grief, but have encouraged the wicked not to turn from his wicked way and preserve his life,”**

**Ezek. 22:14, “Can your heart endure, or can your hands be strong in the days that I will deal with you? I, the LORD, have spoken and will act.”**

Ezek. 30:24, “ ‘For I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon and put My sword in his hand; and I will break the arms of Pharaoh, so that he will groan before him with the groanings of a wounded man.

Ezek. 30:25, “ ‘Thus I will strengthen the arms of the king of Babylon, but the arms of Pharaoh will fall. Then they will know that I am the LORD, when I put My sword into the hand of the king of Babylon and he stretches it out against the land of Egypt.’ ”

Hag. 2:4, “ ‘But now take courage, Zerubbabel,’ declares the LORD, ‘take courage also, Joshua son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and all you people of the land take courage,’ declares the LORD, ‘and work; for I am with you,’ declares the LORD of hosts.”

Dan. 10:16, “And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, ‘My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength.

Dan. 10:17, “ ‘For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.’

Dan. 10:18, “Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

Dan. 10:19, “And he said, ‘O man greatly beloved, fear not! Peace be to you; be strong, yes, be strong!’ So when he spoke to me I was strengthened, and said, ‘Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.’ ”

**Job 4:3, “Behold you have admonished many,  
and you have strengthened weak hands.”**

**Rom. 9:19, “You will say to me then, ‘Why does He still find fault? For who has resisted His will?’**

**Rom. 9:20, “But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, ‘Why have you made me like this?’ ”**

**Rom. 9:21, “Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?”**

**Rom. 9:22, “What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,”**



**Jer. 18:3, “Then I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was, making something at the wheel.**

**Jer. 18:4, “And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter; so he made it again into another vessel, as it seemed good to the potter to make.**

**Jer. 18:5, “Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying:**



**Jer. 18:6, “ ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?’ says the LORD. ‘Look, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!**

**Jer. 18:7, “ ‘The instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to pluck up, to pull down, and to destroy it,**

**Jer. 18:8, “ ‘if that nation against whom I have spoken turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I thought to bring upon it.**

**Jer. 18:9, “ ‘And the instant I speak concerning a nation and concerning a kingdom, to build and to plant it,**

**Jer. 18:10, “ ‘if it does evil in My sight so that it does not obey My voice, then I will relent concerning the good with which I said I would benefit it.’ ”**

**Rom. 9:23, “and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels [nations] of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory,**

**Rom. 9:24, “even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?”**

**Rom. 9:25, “As He says also in Hosea: ‘I will call them My people, who were not My people, and her beloved, who was not beloved.’ ”**

**Hos. 2:23, “Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, and I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, ‘You are My people!’ And they shall say, ‘You are my God!’ ”**

**Rom. 9:26, “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there they shall be called sons of the living God.”**

**Hos. 1:10, “Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people,’ there it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living God.’ ”**

Rom. 9:27, “Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: ‘Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, the remnant will be saved.’ ”

Isa. 10:22, “For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

Isa. 10:23, “For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land.”

Rom. 9:28, “For He will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness, because the LORD will make a short work upon the earth.”

Isa. 10:22, “For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea, a remnant of them will return; The destruction decreed shall overflow with righteousness.

Isa. 10:23, “For the Lord GOD of hosts will make a determined end in the midst of all the land.”

**Rom. 9:29, “And as Isaiah said before: ‘Unless the LORD of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we would have become like Sodom, and we would have been made like Gomorrah.’ ”**

**Isa. 1:9, “Unless the LORD of hosts had left to us a very small remnant, we would have become like Sodom, we would have been made like Gomorrah.”**

**Rom. 9:30, “What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith;”**

**Rom. 9:31, “but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness.”**

**Rom. 9:32, “Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone.”**

Rom. 9:33, “As it is written: ‘*Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.*’ ”

Isa. 28:16, “*Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.’ ”*