

Romans 9:30 – 10:21

Easter Sunday

Shane Pelanda · Sunday School · April 6, 2025

THE BIG PICTURE

Paul addresses Jewish believers in Rome, building on five Old Testament stories of God's sovereignty (ch. 9). He now answers: *why haven't most of Israel accepted the Messiah — and why have Gentiles, of all people, come to faith?*

PART 1 · ROMANS 9:30 – 10:13

The Stumbling Stone (9:30–33)

- Gentiles, not pursuing righteousness, found it — through **faith**.
- Israel, pursuing righteousness by law-keeping, did not reach it.
- They stumbled over Christ — the very stone God had promised in the prophets.

Isaiah 28:16 / 8:14

“I am placing a stone in Jerusalem that makes people stumble... but anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.”

Zeal Without Knowledge (10:1–4)

- Paul's heartfelt desire: that Israel would be saved.
- Their problem was *misdirected zeal* — even the crucifixion was motivated by a desire to protect God's holiness.
- They sought righteousness their own way rather than accepting God's way.
- Christ is the *telos* (end / fulfillment) of the law — he is the one perfect Israelite.

The Righteousness of Faith Is Near (10:5–13)

LAW'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

FAITH'S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Perfect obedience to all commands — an impossible standard (Lev. 18:5)

The message is *near you* — on your lips and in your heart (Deut. 30:14)

- Paul draws from Deuteronomy 30, where Moses told Israel the covenant was *not too difficult*.
- Jesus is the fulfillment of the covenant blessings and the end of the covenant curses of Deuteronomy 30.

Romans 10:9–10

“If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”

- These verses are not a mechanical salvation formula — they show Jesus as the fulfillment of Deuteronomy's covenant promises to Israel, now open to all.
- “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Joel 2:32) — Jew and Gentile alike.

PART 2 · ROMANS 10:14–21

Israel Has Heard — But the Remnant Alone Believes

Paul works backwards through a chain: *sent* → *preach* → *hear* → *believe* → *call*. The issue isn't that Israel hasn't heard — the issue is that only the remnant believes.

OLD TESTAMENT QUOTATIONS IN THIS SECTION

Reference	Point Paul is making
Isaiah 52:7	Beautiful feet of those who bring good news — preachers have been sent
Isaiah 53:1	"Who has believed?" — not all who hear will believe; only the remnant
Psalms 19:4	Creation itself declares God's glory — Israel is without excuse
Deut. 32:21	God warned he would provoke Israel to jealousy through the nations
Isaiah 65:1	God was found by those not seeking him — the Gentiles
Isaiah 65:2	All day long God holds out his hands to disobedient Israel

- God is not to blame. He has been covenantally faithful and has held out his hands all day long.
 - Israel's rejection is not the end of the story — chapter 11 picks up the unresolved questions.
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APPLICATION

FOR THEM AND FOR THEN

The lack of Jewish people coming to faith cannot be blamed on God. He sent the one true Israelite to fulfill the law, and all day long holds out his hands to his people.

FOR US AND FOR ALWAYS

God is a loving Father who wants all creation to know him. Whatever hardship we face is never rejection — it may even be God provoking us to return to him.

FOR ME AND FOR NOW

How quickly do I return to my Father in repentance? May I never take for granted the gift of the gospel extended to me as a Gentile.