

# Romans 9:30-33

## Israel's Stone of Stumbling

### 1. 9:30 - What Shall We Say Then?

- a. Is Israel or God justified? What does the scripture say? (quoted 12+ times already)
  - i. Israel was given promises of a nation of blessing to bless Gentiles (nations)
  - ii. Israel was given laws to sanctify them (set apart for blessing)
  - iii. God divides Israel to two vessels: one gets mercy (Judah a blessing) the other wrath
- b. What happens when Jesus comes? (These scriptures not at that time written)
  - i. Jesus (promised Messiah) comes to Israel (for blessing of Gentiles, too -Rom 15:8-9)
  - ii. Jesus sanctifies them by faith and the Spirit (sets them apart to be a blessing)
  - iii. Jesus divides Israel to two vessels: one gets mercy (remnant) the other wrath
- c. In Rom 9 Paul shows how God dealt with Israel under the fathers, Moses, and the prophets
  - i. Promises not received by all Israel in the flesh, God gives mercy and wrath to Israel
  - ii. There is hope for fallen Israel – but they would not receive it by faith.
  - iii. The hope and mercy for Israel would be hope and mercy for Gentiles, too.

### 2. 9:30-31 – Gentiles and Israel

- a. *“which followed not after righteousness”* - Gentiles were sinners – Gal 2:14-15
- b. *“have attained to righteousness... of faith”* - see Gal 2:16 (something Peter could know)
- c. Paul not preaching another gospel to them, but explaining their own scriptures - Gal 3:6-9
  - i. 1) They would get it through Israel, 2) They could receive mercy 3) Scripture says so
- d. Righteousness has always been by faith, for Jews and Gentiles – Rom 1:17
  - i. Remember the audience could include Cornelius, Priscilla/Aquila, Andy & June, etc.
  - ii. Remnant members near Rome: Heb 13:24, Acts 2:10, 10:1, 18:2, Rom 16:3, 7
- e. Gentiles benefiting from Israel: Jethro, Ruth, Rahab, Cyrus, centurions, Ethiopian eunuchs
  - i. Some Gentiles get into the kingdom → Luke 7:5-9, Mat 8:8-12, 15:26-27, Acts 11:18
  - ii. Are there believing Gentiles with Peter? Yes. Before Paul? Yes. With Jesus? Yes.
  - iii. These Gentiles are not the mystery church, the Body of Christ.

### 3. 9:32 - Law vs. Faith

- a. Paul's point: Sinful Gentiles can get what law-abiding Israel could not = righteous by faith
- b. He is contrasting believing Gentiles vs. unbelieving Jews to show the need for faith not law.
- c. What is NOT said: Israel can't get it, Gentiles become Israel, Israel's prophecies changed
- d. *“Wherefore?”* - Word of promise, mercy, vessels of glory, scriptures require faith to receive
- e. The promise, inheritance, through the righteousness of faith not law - Rom 3:21, 4:13-14

### 4. 9:32-33 – The Stone of Stumbling

- a. Facts about this stone:
  - i. It is in Sion (Israel) – Isa 8:13-15 – the LORD is a rock of offence to Israel.
  - ii. It concerns believing the word of God – Isa 8:16, 1 Pet 2:6-9
  - iii. It is “him”, which is the Lord Jesus Christ – Isa 28 speaks of Jesus Christ's ministry.

- b. Isa 28:9-14 – He offers them truth, rest, refreshing, but the rulers would not hear him.
- c. Isa 28:15-16 – A stumbling stone put forth for whosoever to believe (faith required).
- d. Isa 28:21 – God does a strange work: benefit by tearing down, pruning, threshing.
- e. Isa 28:23-29 – Contains a parable of the sower concerning Israel, just as Jesus declared.
- f. Isa 28:22-23 – Be not mockers, but hear his voice (Paul says, Boast not due to faith)
- g. Isaiah says the stone is prophesied. Peter speaks of the stone as occurring before Acts 2.
- h. Find the stone after the parable in Matt 21:33, 42-43.
- i. The kingdom given to a nation bearing fruit (faith), of other husbandman (remnant Israel)
- j. Next chapter there is the parable of the marriage supper – Matt 22:1-10, Luke 14:16-24
- k. Their would be poor and troubled Israel and Gentiles get in before the self-righteous
- l. The stone was Christ Jesus, the stumbling was the need for faith - John 3:18
- m. Israel stumbled at the stone. Some Gentiles did not, some Israel did not (remnant).