

## **Wrestling with the Sovereignty of God & the Freedom of Relationship Romans Chapters 9:30-10:21 Part I**

Now we come to the second part of Paul's discussion for the real version of Israel's story  
The first section took us from the Patriarchs thru the Exodus to the Exile  
And now Paul will lead us to the Messiah and the renewed covenant people with both  
Jews and Gentiles as it was always supposed to be  
And this despite the fact that the majority of Ethnic Israel remains in unbelief  
And thru Jesus the message goes out to all the world through ethnic Israel remains mostly  
in unbelief

Two main points to highlight:

1. 10:4 – Messiah is the end/completion/fulfillment to the Torah  
Really, Messiah is the GOAL of the Torah
2. 10:6-8 – Paul reads from Duet. 30:12-14 – prediction of the TRUE return from exile

The Story of Israel from Abraham to the final covenant renewal reaches its conclusion in 10:13

- Romans 10:13

Who is the “whoever” here?

Both Jew and Gentile

Here's a quick question, what is the goal of removing sin? Or is that the goal itself?

Really so we can join in the single family who would together forever be with God

- Romans 15:7-13

- Romans 9:30-31

Paul is really saying, so where have we arrived?

Israel has yielded to judgment with only a remnant being rescued from the condemnation of Exile

Meanwhile, God has used this process to call “Vessels of Glory” – meaning Gentiles too  
Now Paul will add the thoughts of Torah & Faith

*“What then shall we say? Shall we say Gentiles, who did not seek righteousness, received it anyway? Well yea, kinda, but it is righteousness out of faith.”*

When you look at the two comparisons, what do you notice? What observations can you make? What MIGHT have Paul asked about Israel that he didn't?

Might have expected Paul to then say, “and Israel, pursuing righteousness did not...”

But Paul changes it

*“Israel, pursuing Torah did not attain to the Torah.”*

Thinking here is very close back to chapter 7

The more Israel clung to the Torah, the more they sinned and the farther away they got

- Romans 9:32a

Notice what it says...”as if it were”

Why would he say it like this?

Because it never was supposed to be the proper route to joining the covenant family

So how do you attain to the Torah and join the covenant family...Paul will get there later starting in 10:6

Remember Paul's earlier statement

- Romans 3:20

They have confused Ethnic privilege as Torah bearers with the promise God made with Abraham by faith

- Romans 9:32-33

The way Israel pursued God thru the Torah was like tripping over a stone

And God put the stone there, not Satan

[Who or what is the stone that God placed here because it is kind of confusing?](#)

[What is the immediate subject of the text in regards to Israel?](#)

It is the Torah...initially the Torah is the stumbling stone

God gives the Holy Torah to Israel and they mistake keeping it for life

They actually missed the life being the way Abraham inaugurated it...thru faith

But then by the end of the verse in 33 the "stone" is personal...Messiah

The double text Paul quotes is from Isaiah

- Is. 28:12-14, 16-17

This text was often understood as a Messianic text

- Is 8:12-15

Yet here, it is God (meaning not Messiah specifically) that is referred to

- Romans 10:11

Here it is clearly Jesus, the Messiah that is meant by "Him"

Thru this whole next section it is faith in HIM, Messiah that is of topic

- Romans 10:7-11

**POINT = The Torah is attained thru faith in Messiah**

[So, how is Messiah a stumbling stone? And how did Israel stumble over Him?](#)

They didn't believe

Israel, chosen as Gospel bearers, given Torah, decide to find life from keeping Torah

They swapped GRACE for RACE...and missed faith altogether...and Messiah

Remember the question? HAS GOD'S WORD FAILED in 9:6?

NO, God is righteous, He has been faithful...He has kept His word to build a covenant people