

# Study in Romans

Doctrine > God's Plan for Israel > Divine Sovereignty in Israel's Past >  
Israel's Stumbling Over the Rock of Offense  
Romans 9:30-33

This section contains Paul's conclusion about what God has done in Israel's past by stating that, in the midst of revealing His mercy and wrath, God has ordained to use Israel's hardening and rejection of the Messiah to call Gentiles to Himself from all the nations. God wants to bless His people, but He has chosen His vessel, Jesus Christ, as the means through which His covenants with them will be fulfilled. They cannot have it both ways. They cannot reject Jesus, yet expect God's promised blessings.

The final OT quotation in this chapter shows that once again, God has had this as part of His plan. The Rock of Offense is Jesus. He offends our pride. He smashes our religious constructs we have built to make ourselves feel like we are acceptable to God. The righteousness of God available in the gospel is by faith, but Israel missed it because their righteousness was by law.

1. Concluding statement (vv. 30-31)
  - a. Gentiles receive saving righteousness through faith
  - b. Jews miss saving righteousness through law
2. God's plan for Israel's stumbling (vv. 32-33; cf. Isaiah 8:14 and 28:16)