

“Responsible before a Sovereign God”

Romans 10:14-21

March 6, 2022

→ **Introduction: The New Testament and the Prophet Isaiah**

- A. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the New Testament authors understood that much of the book of Isaiah was a prophetic preview of events happening in their own day, particularly the Jewish rejection of Jesus.

Acts 28:25b–27 - ²⁵ “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: ²⁶ “ ‘Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” ²⁷ For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ ²⁸ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

- B. Jesus had made this plain.

Matthew 13:13–15 - ¹³ “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ “In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘You will keep on hearing, but will not understand; You will keep on seeing, but will not perceive; ¹⁵ For the heart of this people has become dull, With their ears they scarcely hear, And they have closed their eyes, Otherwise they would see with their eyes, Hear with their ears, And understand with their heart and return, And I would heal them.’

John 12:37–38 - ³⁷ But though He had performed so many signs before them, yet they were not believing in Him. ³⁸ This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”

I. Israel Had Gospel Preachers Sent to Them (Rom. 10:14-17)

- A. It was true that no one could call upon Christ if no one was sent to tell them about Christ.
- B. But Paul and the Apostles had been sent to the Jews; yet the Jews rejected the message, as Isaiah had foretold.

II. Israel, as a Whole, Heard the Gospel Message. (Rom. 10:18)

- A. All Jews had heard the gospel message because Paul and the Apostles had preached it everywhere.
- B. The spread of the gospel across the whole *known* world of the 1st century is a common New Testament theme.

Colossians 1:5–6 - ⁵ because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel ⁶ which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth... ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

Acts 17:6 - When they did not find them, they began dragging Jason and some brethren before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who have upset the world have come here also...”

Acts 21:27–28 - ²⁷ When the seven days were almost over, the Jews from Asia, upon seeing him [Paul] in the temple, began to stir up all the crowd and laid hands on him, ²⁸ crying out, “Men of Israel, come to our aid! This is the man who preaches to all men everywhere against our people and the Law and this place; and besides he has even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”

III. Israel Should Have *Understood* the Gospel Times. (10:19-20)

- A. All over the world, the Jews were rejecting Jesus; and the Gentiles were suddenly coming to God through Christ.
- B. Moses had prophesied that this would make the Jews jealous; this was occurring!

Acts 17:2–5 - ² And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, ³ explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.” ⁴ And some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, along with a large number of the God-fearing Greeks and a number of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews, becoming jealous and taking along some wicked men from the marketplace, formed a mob and set the city in an uproar; and attacking the house of Jason, they were seeking to bring them out to the people.

- C. Isaiah had too; thus, the Jews should have recognized the times in which they lived.

IV. Israel Rejected the Gospel Due to their *Own* Stubborn Disobedience. (10:21)

- A. As Isaiah had predicted, the Jews stubbornly refused to obey the gospel call.
- B. They did this in the face of God’s abundant and merciful patience.

Luke 13:34 - “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not have it!”

→ Conclusion: Romans 9 and Romans 10 – God’s Sovereignty and Human Responsibility...Both Are True!

Acts 13:44–48 - ⁴⁴ The next Sabbath nearly the whole city assembled to hear the word of the Lord. ⁴⁵ But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy [again! - Ken Jr.] and began contradicting the things spoken by Paul and were blaspheming. ⁴⁶ Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly and said, “It was necessary that the word of God be spoken to you first; since you repudiate it and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles. ⁴⁷ “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, That You may bring salvation to the end of the earth.’” ⁴⁸ When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed.

- C. Those who are lost, Jew or Gentile, have *only* themselves to blame, certainly *not* God.
- D. Those who are saved, Jew or Gentile, have *only* God to thank, certainly *not* themselves.