

TITLE: The Rock of Offense"

TEXT: Romans 9:14-33

This message is entitled "The Rock of Offense", and it's given by Dr. Dave Hockings.

Romans, chapter 9, beginning with verse 14. We have studied the principles of God's righteousness in the first 8 chapters of this marvelous book and then in chapter 9, 10 and 11, there are some problems in that righteousness, that are brought to our attention. Especially with regard to the rejection of Israel. Which we are studying in chapter 9; how people so favored, so directly in the line of the maisah, and varifing it by signs, wonders and miracles. By his own ressurection of the dead, how that nation could have rejected him. And turned their backs on him. So that rejection of Israel, seemingly twarts the purposes of God. Because of the tremedious promises. In the old testament to that nation. And so the problem in God's righteousness. Is God going to be faithful and righteous to his people, and inspite of their refections, still fulfill his promise? And the answer is yes, ao we will see.

In chapter 9, we're looking at that rejection in many ways. We notice first of all, in the matter of Paul;s own sorrow, in the first 5 verses, as he revealed his personal heart. He said that he had continueal sorrow and great heaviness and could wish himself a curse from Christ, for his brotheren and kinsmen according to his flesh, who are Israelites. And we also notice that in the selection of the seed. For he'll receive that in the case of both Isaac and Ismael and Esau and Jacob. God ingnored the first son and took the second son, and continued the line. And God had every right to do so. And we begin learning some of the wonderful things about God and his nature and his character. Some of the things that cause us a great deal of problems.

There are two things that are fundamental to your understanding and mine, in this portion of God's Word. One is the nature of God. The second is the nature of man. Man is not in the condition or position where by he's able to choose God. And we're going to learn that clearly in Romans 9. You have no capacity, you have

no will of your own, that can choose God and his way. No way. Your not just sick. The Bible says you are dead spiritually and the only way a man can be alive is through a spiritual resurrection. The Bible says that God must do that for you. You just can't come alive spiritually by doing a number of good things. That will not make you come alive. No way. The Bible teaches that it takes the power of God to make a man alive. We're going to learn in chapter 9, some very knotty problems about God and his purposes for men. Some things are difficult and hard to understand. Reminds me of a little bit about a confrontation I had in last weeks message in the first 13 verses. One of the members here said, "looks like we don't have to witness, because after all, God knows who's going to be saved." My answer to that is first of all, I believe 100%, that God knows who's going to be saved. There is no question about that. If he didn't, he couldn't be God. He isn't the God who just wowned up the universe, and lets it go and wind down. He isn't the God that made everybody and then kind of looks in on it to see how it's going to turn out. God is Saviourn, that means he runs everything. There's nothing missing. He's in control. But the same God who ordains the end; meaning the people who are going to be saved, is the same God who ordains the means to that end. Meaning the people who are believers, who are going to witness. You say, "well, if I don't witness, I'll thwart the purpose of God, I'll stop his purpose." Uh Ha (means no, no). He'd just by pass you and find somebody else to witness to. You say, "but what if we all stopped witnessing, then God couldn't accomplish his purposes." No, because, you see, he's given people the desire to witness. And if he gives you the desire to witness, there's nothing you could do but witness. And I found many times when I'm not even ready to witness, God dumps it in my lap and forces me to. Almost like I sound like I'm not ready to now, thank you. But someone almost begs you to be saved. Every now and then, that happens to you. Why? Because God is in the business of saving people. And God's going to accomplish his purposes. So we can't thwart the purposes of God. No way. As a matter of fact, when you understand that God is Saviourn, you understand that there has never been a king or a ruler or a president, or a premier, or a prime minister, who has ever lived in the history of the would, that God didn't know before he reined. That he was going to rein and how

long he was going to rein and when he was going to be put down. No man has ever been killed in office; no man has ever been disposed; no man has ever been put out of office that God did not know what was going to happen. Is that strange teaching to you? That's all clearly taught in the old testament. Clearly, outlined to it. God is in control. There has never been a nation that has ever existed in the history of the world, that God did not know when it was going to begin, how long it was going to rein, and how it was going to end. As a matter of fact, your entire future and mine is all mapped out by the Word of God.

We know that great and exciting things are going to happen and God is not going to be caught by surprise. You say, "don't I have free will?" Now what is free will? How free are you? Do you have a will to predetermine your actions? Can you decide that your going to do something tomorrow and you know that it's going to happen? Of course not. Because anything could happen. We could have an earth quake here in Los Angeles. I'm not predicting that, but we could have one. And all your plans will be disrupted. You can have a tragedy in your family, something can, everything can change. You can not predetermine your actions tomorrow. So how free is your will? What are we talking about, free will? I only have a will because God has one. I operate within the great will and plan of God. But when talk about my ability to choose why God even gives me that privilege. And He can take it away at any time. God can change the course of my life at any moment. And some of us, with all our dreams and plans about what we're going to do in our life, some where down the road, God just throws something or other at us and changes the whole thing. Just to prove to us that we are not the masters of our destiny. So don't get your will so free, that you don't see yourself independently of God. That's impossible. God knows what is happening. And He's sovereign over all things. There isn't anything that He doesn't know about you. He's fully aware. As a matter of fact, He knows you better than you know yourself. That can be either frightening or encouraging, depending on how you look at things. It's encouraging to the believer. So when we look at Romans 9, come with a belief again as I mentioned last week. If your a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, this is the truth, It's not my opinion about it. It's the truth, that we must proclaim the truth.

And this is the truth in the character and nature of God, let's believe it, even though we don't understand everything. It's not what I don't understand that bothers me, it's what I do understand that bothers me. And I know I must apply it. Romans chapter 9, verse 14; What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? That's because it's selecting Isaac instead of Ishmael, and Jacob instead of Esau. So it appears he is unrighteous. God forbid. For he sayth to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on who I will have compassion." So then, it is not of him who willeth nor of him that runneth, but of God to show us mercy. For the scripture sayeth unto Pharaoh, "even for this same purpose, have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name be declared throughout all the earth." Therefore, have he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and who he will be hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, "Why did thee find fault? For who have resisted his will. Nay, but all man who aren't thou, may replyest against God. Shall the thing formed, say to him that formed it, why has thou made me thus? Have not the potter power over the clay of the same lump to make the vessel into honor and another into dishonor? What if God will to show his wrath and his power know, endured with much long suffering, the vessels of wrath, fitted in destruction? And that he might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy. Which he had before prepared into glory. Even us, whom he has called not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles. As he sayeth also in Hosea, I will call them my people who were not my people. And her beloved who is not beloved. And it shall come to pass, and to the place where it was said in the van, you are not my people, they shall be called the sons of the Living God. Isaiah also cryeth out concerning Israel, though the number of the children of Israel be of the sand and the sea, a remnant shall be saved. For he will finish the work and cut it short in righteousness. Because the short work will the Lord make upon earth. And as Isaiah said before, "except the Lord of Sabboth, had left us a seed, we had been a Sabbath and been made like a Nigamora. What shall we say then? That the Gentiles who followed not after righteousness which is a fate. But Israel who follow that to the law of righteousness, have not attained the law of righteousness. Why? Because they sawed not by faith. But as it were by the

works of the law, for they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zioness stumbling stone, and rock of offense. And who so ever believeth on him, shall not be ashamed. Let's stop with a word of prayer.

Now begining with verse 14, we notice the problem of rejection of Israel, as we see it in the total soventy of God. And that goes from verse 14 through verse 24. It's seen in the souvernity of God. I'd like you to notice two things about this portion of God's Word. First of all, the revelation of God's mercy, is presented in verses 14 - 18. The revelation of God's mercy. And in these verses, he gives us two illustrations. The first one is the case of Moses and the second one is the case of Pharoh. Now in the case of Moses, we read in verse number 15 and 16, these words. "For he sayth to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion." And then he draws a principle. So then, it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that show us mercy. Now what is mercy? Mercy means that God is holding back from you, right now, what you really deserve. All of God's judgement, in other words, if he means to kill you right now in the pew for the way you treated him and the way you've ingnored him as a souvern God. And so, instead of applying his judgement to you, it's like his wonderful hand is there holding it. Any moment now, it could break forth on you and judge you exactly the way we deserve. But he's holding that, because he's a God of mercy. Mercy is holding back from us that which we deserve. Now according to this verse, in ver 16, you don't will to have God's mercy. No metter what dicision or choise you make in your life. That is not the bases on which God has given you mercy. According to this text, it's God that shows mercy. It also says that it is not because you run. In other words, no matter what busy ness you have in your life, what things you think are acceptable of God, you say, "I did a lot of good things, I deserve mercy." Oh no. That's not the Bible's way. It is not because of that. That you receive mercy. God is showing mercy to any one of us. Simply because he wants to, and so we learn something about the character of God. He works independently of the response of people. It does not necessitate your choosing him. Willing to have his way. It is not necessitate your running about to earn your way, before him. No. God loves you so much, he chooses to have

mercy on you. His own sovereign choice. Our second illustration is Pharaoh, who, as you know in the plagues of Egypt, the particular Pharaoh; Pharaoh has just the name king or Caesar. And there were a lot of Pharaoh's. But the particular one, when Moses was coming in to him to get the people to leave Egypt. There were all these plagues and the Bible says he hardened his heart. And often it says the Lord hardened his heart. Now in the example of Pharaoh, we read in verse 17, that the scripture said to Pharaoh, even for this same purpose, have I raised thee up. So I learned Pharaoh did nothing of his own volition. God raised him up. Now it appears, Pharaoh is doing this. But the Bible says God is doing this. He raised Pharaoh up to accomplish his purpose. Now why? Verse 17, that I might show my power in thee and that my name might show my power in thee and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. God wanted to demonstrate his power and wanted to have his name declared. Is that true? Absolutely. And the nation and the world didn't forget what happened down in Egypt. You talk about steering a little hand full of people. Every where the Jews went, the Word spread. As a matter of fact, even in scripture later on in the history of Egypt, they mentioned they were probably Hebrew people. I wouldn't forget those views. Why Pharaoh and his army were wiped out in the red sea. Wiped out! Why? So God would show his power, and his name will be declared to everybody. Everywhere to everybody and everybody would do. His name was declared. Now, according to verse 18, another principle is set down. Therefore, have mercy on whom he will have mercy. That's what he said to Moses. Look at this additional one, verse 18. All this hurts. And whom he will, he hardeneth. Why do men refuse to respond to God? Well because God made it that way. You listen to that, you read that. That's too much. That's what the Bible says. He will have mercy on whom he will and whom he wants to, he hardens. You read along in that story in the plagues of Egypt. Pharaoh is hardening his heart. He says well I will let the people go and he makes some conditions on it and Moses says, nothing doing. You know. He says that their not going to and Pharaoh hardened his heart. And God sends him a plague and he reconsiders. And along the way, you read that the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart. You see, God was doing that. Why? Simply to demonstrate his power and will. He has a perfect right doing that, don't you think? Or do you?

Or are you sure? That's what Romans 9 is about. It's going to show us that God is in perfect control, even in the response of people. And this is going to be hard for some to receive. Alright, the second thing I want you to notice, beginning with verse 19, about the sovereignty of God, is his right to do what ever he wants. That's verses 19 - 24. God has a perfect right to do what ever he wants to do. Do you believe that? Now in verse 19. First of all, we have the problem stated. Verse 19. What is the problem in this regard? Maybe you can identify with this. Look at verse 19. "Thou will say then unto me, why does he yet find fault?" And if he's having mercy on whom he wants to and he's hardening whom he wants to. Then why does he find fault with us. For who has resisted his will. Now isn't that what you say? I know that what you said. There must have been a dozen people say that to me and I expect a lot from the other church. I felt like saying, "well, next Sunday, I'll read about your question." Why sure we say that. Why is God finding fault in us. Who can resist his will. I looks like none of us can resist his will. What's the answer to that? You don't sit around and say, "well now, let's rethink this thing", or "be careful now". No. You say, "your right." What do you mean? No one can resist his will? That's right. Now that too much. Why. Well, because I run my own life. I make my own decisions. You see, the reason we can not accept that statement, is because we are still in control. Listen believer, you better listen to Romans 9, too. We don't never make the kind of commitment and dedication that we ought to, to God. Simply because we think we have independent control in certain areas of our life. I got news for you. God is in control. And this chapter really is hard to understand. So the problem is clear. Why should he find fault in us, because we can resist his will. What is the answer to that. There's a three fold answer to that in verses 20 - 24. Three parts to this answer, that the Bible gives to us to that problem. The first one in verse 20, deals with our position. Our position, in verse 20. It says, "May the old man who art thou that replyeth against God?" Shall the same formed say to the formed that made it, "Why has thou made me thus?" By our position, according to the Bible, is that we are like clay in a potters hand and we have no right to even ask the question. You know when I read verse 20, I sit down and say, "O yea." And I start asking questions. You know

it's funny the longer we do it. You know, the more we push the application of Romans 9, the more clearly you will see it in your own life. If you just play around with Romans 9, just think about it once or twice and then just pass it off and say, "O that's not true, man has perfect right to choose and all that." If you just pass that off, you will never understand it. I warn you. But you push the application of this and you will understand it. I want to show you what I mean. Now here's a potter who's forming some vessels out of clay. Just for a moment let's suppose that I had it; in fact I'd thought about bringing it, but I don't know how to shape a pottery, you know, so I didn't. Any way, suppose I had it up here. I'm shaping it, I'm molding it, and designing it, it's real fun. And then all of a sudden, the clay says, "hold everything." Now first of all, I'd have a cardiac arrest, because I've never seen clay talk. So that would get me right away. And, can you just imagine the joke of all jokes, that, that clay said to me, "Your designing me to be flowers, I'd rather be a pitcher to pour out of." "To have water poured out of." Now what would I think about that? O Yea? Oph. Your going to be a fun lump of clay. Wouldn't it be funny, I mean if clay could do that? Now you look at that and say, "Wait a minute. I'm a rational free thinking person and I'm different from the clay." Well, that's not what God says. He says that the thing who is formed, has any right to say to one who formed it. Your learning something in Romans 9:20, that's one of the most difficult passages of the Bible. That's the nature of God. Everybody thinks they understand God, until they read Romans 9. And that's where we usually check off. Listen, our God is so big' our God is so much in control, that he made you just the way you are. Including that nose. What ever it is. God, why didn't you make me beautiful? Well, because God has a sense of humor. You see? Every one of us is different. See? Some are beautiful and some aren't. Why, God is in control of that. You know, it's funny how we can express that by the way of logic, because every one of us is different. Aren't we? We can even go so far to believe that God could have possibly made different personalities. Why? Because we see that also. But why can't we go all the way and God could have also? Decided the kind of response, that many have give to him. Or we can understand the physical why God made me like this, and I'm going to have to live with it. We can understand he made different personalities and so forth. Why can't we also believe that



the same God who made all of that, has all the differences? Also, determine the responsenty. That's what Romans 9 is about. He's perfectly powerful to do that. And there's a basic reason why, which we're going to show you in a moment. If you didn't do that, now one single person would ever be in heaven. Did you know that? Not one single person would ever go to heaven, if God did not determine the response of all of us. Now let's keep going. That's the first thing, your position, why your just clay. You don't have any right to ask the question. Now secondly. Let's look at God's power to choose. According to verse 21 and 22, God, it's just 21, has the power to choose just like he's making the clay. Look at this, verse 21. Hath not the potter power over the clay of the same lump, make one vessel into honoe and one into dishonor. One to hold flowers and one to pour water out of. One to honor, and one to dishonor. Can't God do that? Is your God that big? Does he have that right and that privilege and that chosce? Why, of course he does. And he did. God has the perfect right and power to choose, any body's response, their appearence, their life, everything they do in life, he has the perfect right to do that. Why? He made us all, people. You see, the reason men today are fighting this, is this world is getting increasingly away from both, the nature of God and the nature of man in creation. We have designed a whole clan. Called revaluation. It has an area of light, not biology, but historically. Man supposedly is developing, into a higher form. What's it doing? It's alliminating God. Truly, it's alliminating God right out of the picture. We don't need him any more. God didn't start the whole thing. So the nature of God is affected. You know what else is affected? The nature of man. We're actually much better than what we were a million years ago. *Man is getting* Now, it's even better. *Now* And what does God do to show man *The stupid lesson* ~~that if he listens~~ of that logic? Well, he just makes man worse, even though he has nicer things, bigger culture and all that. He just makes him worse. Makes him more corrupt and just proves to us that we were wrong in the first place. The nature of God..the nature of man. We are getting rid of God and we are exalting man. And we have a problem with Romans 9/ We setting here have all been effective like no generation has been effective in the history of the world. In this regard right here. We don't need God. After all evolution is a fact. Even though I can't explain the orgin of things. We just suppose that it happened.

It is really amusing to me to read man's opinions as to the origins of the universe. I am not just talking about the biological theory of evolution I am talking about the origin of the solar system. That is the funnies kind of reading that you can read. Scientific language like you can't believe. Theories ..stated as facts..that are hard to believe. And out of all these theories, it demands more faith to assume their existence then it does to believe that their was a God who designed and created the whole thing.

Are we trying to kid ourselves? We are trying to run away from God. That is what we are doing. Trying to get rid of God....Exalting man..We are getting better and better. And yet history proves over and over again that we are getting wrose.

Education hasn't made us better....We have educated ourselves to be more evil. Weprove this constantly.

And we come to a simple verse that says that "GOD HAS A RIGHT TO CHOOSE. The prority of God is at sake here in Romans 9 .

(3 ) Now, the third thing invovlves God's specific plan. This is found in verses 22 to 24. And this is the main point.

Vs 22..."What if God, although willing to demonstrate His wrath and to make His power known", which he will do, so that you understand his true character. He will not excuse sin. He will judge sin. "He endured with much patience vessels of wrath prepared for destruction."

You ask the question. Are there jsome people who are fitted to spending eternity in Hell? I mean they are going to go there....WHAT IS THE ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION?

Well, you already know the answer from the Bible. The Bible tells us that there are jpeople who are going to be in Hell. It even discribes the great white throne judgement at the end of the book of Revelation. It says that the dead, small and great, no matter whether they were kings or humble men, they rejected God. Therefore they will stand before God in judgement at the Great White Throne judgment.

And whoever was not written in the book of life, the Bible says, will be cast into the lake of fire.

Laugh at it if you want. But you had better understand what the message of the Bible is all about concerning the nature of God. Before you engore the Bible, you had better understand it. Because God's prorities are spelled out in this book. And if He is soveriegn, then everything He promised is goind to happen. Sure there will be people in hell.

Now, why does God do things that way? Well, because he is going to make his power known. He is going to display his wrath. And he has been very patience with us. Every though we have engored and neglect Him. And mankind has said, "We don't need God." He has showned in their very lives that he is patient with them. And they have proven that they deserve what they are getting. All of us are provening that.

Now, look at Vs 23.."And He did so in order that He might make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory."

Other passages tell us that he did that before the foundations of the world. We were prepaed to be with God in heaven.

And Paul makes a personal application in Vs 24..."even us, whom He also called." We didn't call Him. He called us. "Not from among Jews only, but also frmm among Gentiles."

NOW, ASK YOURSELF..WHY?...WHY ALL OF THAT?

If you believe thathuman beings are simplely just a little sick..and all we need is a little help, and jso we are going to ask you to turn to Christ....inorder to solve their problems. YOU ARE NOT UNDERSTANDING ROMANS CHAPTER 9..

The Bible says that mankind is spiritual dead. Mankind is totally encaptable of responding to God. He has no ability to save himself whatsoever. It takes the power of almighty God, to perform a spiritual resurrection called the new birth. You are not born into God's family on your own efforts. You are not saved because you choose to jdo do.

The Bible says that God has choosen you by the miracle of the new birth. The Holy Spirit of God has jproduced a new creature mn Christ Jesus.

God must save you or no one will. If God does not ~~ex~~ raise you from the spiritual death that you are in, then no one can.

All of your problems and all of your sins are only reflections of the major issue. The Bible says that mankind is spiritually dead. And incapable of responding to God. Even when he hears the things of God. They seem like foolishness unto him. He cannot spiritually discern them. He is dead spiritually and needs the power of God to perform a resurrection.

Now here is the point. If God did ~~not~~ choose and predetermine ahead of time by a mixed plan and pattern that some of us would be in heaven, none of us would be. If God all of a sudden did what we think He ought to do, that is many think he ought to do...And that is to choose him of our own will...DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT GOD LEAVES IT UP TO US?

If that is true, who of us can choose?.....

According to the Bible, none of us can. We don't have the power to do so. It demands God changing us. You cannot change yourself. It is impossible. It demands God's power.

And so I am glad and very thankful to day after reading Romans 9 that God in his wisdom and plan predetermined that I would be in heaven. I look back over my life and I say that I made that simple decision. And I ask Jesus Christ to come into my heart. But, I know now that God choose me before the foundation of the world. God gave me the ability to be saved. God gave me the hunger and desire to trust jJesuse Christ and to know that He was the only answer. God brought me unto himself. And I believe. Not because I was choosing to believe. God gave me the power to believe. And that is an important principle to remember. Because none of us would be in heaven if it were left up to us.

We are spiritually dead and incapable of responding to God. We need His power. (xxx)

( ) Now, beginning with Vs 25, the fourth thing that I want you to notice in the regard to the rejection of Israel, and that is that we see it in the scriptures that prophecied it in the O.T. And there are three things mentioned here. Three passages mentioned in verse 25 to 29

(1 ) The first of which is from the book of Hosea. And it deals with God's purpose for us. Vs 25 and 26..."I will call those who were not my people, MY PEOPLE, and her who was not beloved, BELOVED. And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, YOU ARE NOT MY PEOPLE, there they shall be called, SONS OF THE LIVING GOD."

Now, what he is referring to is that the Jews were always the people of God. But he is going to call Gentiles, who don't deserve it, his people also.

Now, let me tell you how God illustrated this to Hosea. It is a beautiful thing. The whole book of Hosea illustrates it.

Hosea had a wife who committed adultery. Not once but many times. Now Hosea had a perfect right to divorce his wife or stone her to death if he chose to. But, God taught him love and forgiveness. To forgive his wife no matter how many times she had done this. And Hosea in the end won his wife back to himself. He won her back through forgiveness,

And do you know what the message of that book is? That God has done exactly the same with all of us. We go and commit spiritual adultery. We follow after other Gods, and we follow after self. BUT GOD LOVED US. AND HIS FORGIVENESS IS MORE POWERFUL THAN ALL OF OUR SINS. NO MATTER WHAT WE HAVE DONE, GOD IS BRING US UNTO HIMSELF. HE LOVES US INSPITE OF OUR SIN. AND HE SHEDS HIS MERCY UNPON US EVEN THOUGH WE DO NOT DESERVE IT.

That is the kind of God we are talking about. And Hosea illustrated that. God is going to take people who are not his people and make them his people, simply to show us that he has a right to do this, any time He wants to.

(2 ) The second illustration comes from the book of Isaiah mentioned in Verse 27 and 28 deals with God's wonderful promise to Israel. That he will not forsake them, but that a seed would be preserved..

Notice what he says.."Though the number of the sons of Israel be as the sand of the sea, it is the remnant that will be saved; for the Lord will execute his word upon the earth, thoroughly and quickly."

Now, this is going to happen in the future. What he is talking about is in the tribulation period. The 7 years period of time that begins the moment Jesus Christ returns for the believers and they will be caught up to be with him in heaven. 7 years of tribulation will come on this world such as it has never seen.

By the way, the answer to population problems is not the pill or relocating or recycling anyone. God's answer is the tribulation period. One half of the world's population will be killed during the tribulation period.

Hay! Pastor! are you trying to scare us?....OH, I don't have to try to scare you. Those are the facts of this miracleous book that I am sureing with you week after week. It is the truth of what is going to happen. And every thing has happend just alike God said it would up to this ppoint. And so I have no reason to question Him as to what is going to happen in the futrue. I don't know the days or the times or the hours. That is left with God..But I know how it is going to unfold. And it is amazding to me to see the events of history lije up, just like the Bible says.

And it is going to seem like the nation of Israel is going to be wiped out. But, no, God has a perfect right to do what he wants at any time. And even though the nation of Israel as a nation has rejected Jesus as being their Messiah, God will not destroy that nation. The remant is going to be saved. That is his promise.

When the whole dworld turns agains the nation of Israel, God will deliever those people. And a remnant will be saved. WHY? So that God can continue to tell the world that he has a right to do whatever He wants to at any time.

(3 ) Now, the third hillustration is in Vs 29. It is also quoted from Isaiah. And it deals with God's protection. He says, "Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left to us a posterity, we would have become as Sodom, and would have resembled Gomorrah."

You do remember that both of those cities were destroyed and wiped out. But God in his wonderful plan also protects his people. And he has a perfect right to do that.

( ) Now, finally, I want you to notice in verses 30 to 33 that the rejection of Israel is seen most clearly in the stumbling of Israel. They stumbled over something. That maybe you and I are stumbling over. And we don't even know it.  
~~WHAT~~ WHAT WAS THE NATION OF ISRAEL STUMBLING OVER? Some sort of rock or stone that God had placed in their way. I want you to notice that there were three things over which they stumbled.

(1 ) Number one, in Vs 30 and 31, they stumbled over the way of righteousness. Notice what is said.. "What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.".....THEY STUMBLER OVER GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS.....WHY?

Friends, they did not understand FAITH....FAITH....

You are righteousness not because of the way you live or don't live. We are righteous because of faith and faith alone. And so they stumbled over God's way of righteousness.

People have been doing that all the way through out history. Trying to make themselves good. You cannot make yourself good.

We stumble over the way of righteousness because God's way is faith. "By grace are you saved through faith, not of yourselves, it is a gift of God, not of works, least any man should boast."

(2 ) And that is the second thing. You will notice Vs 32. They stumbled over the works of the law ,..According to Vs 32.."Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works of the law." They ~~stumbled~~ stumbled at that stumbling stone. They believed that by the works of the law a person could be justified before God.

~~OP~~ DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU CANN'T?.....Because if you offend the law at one point, the Bible says, you are guilty of breaking the entire law. ~~No man has~~  
~~ever~~

They stumbled over the works of the law. Well, I have done all these good things, surely God will accept me. OH, NO..THAT ISN'T THE BASES OF ACCEPTANCE.

(3 ) The tird thing that they stumbled over was the word of salvation which they had all along. Vs 32....."Behold, I lay in ZION a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense."

Now, what is ZION?....You ~~go~~ go to Jerselsem to day, and right out side there is a little hill called Mt. ZION. It is a small hill. Not very high. And you can go to the Mt. Zion motel and the Mt. Zion resturantand buy Mr. Zion suveniors. It is just a little hill in the city of Jerseluem. SO, ~~WHY~~ WHY IS ~~IT~~ IT ~~SO~~ SO IMPORTANT TO THE JEWS?

Well, God took that hill and used it as an illustration of what he was going to do in the end times when he brings his people back to the land. You have heard of the ZIONIST movement? The Jews are going back to the land. They are tryigg to accomplish in unbelief what God said He will do.

Now, you must get the picture in your mind. In ZION God is going to build a brain new world. And the Jews are going to be leaders in it. The Bible predicks it.


Well, in ZION he put a rock or a stone of offense. And instead of building upoon that theyd have been stumbling over it.

Because that stone upon which all the blessings have been built and given to the Jews is JESUS.....

You say, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? The last part of Vs 33 says.."AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED."

The "HIM" refers back to "THE ROCK"...

I Peter mentions that passage again. And calls it HIM. It is referring to Jesus Christ. He is the stone. He is the rock. And people are stumbling over him. People tryigg to get into the kingdom though other means. People trying to solve the problems of hhe world apart from Jesus. They are stumbling over Jesus.

You must believe that He is the saviour..There is no other way.. 



And the Jews had this message. He came unto his own and His own receive him not, says the Bible. But it also says, "that as many as receive Him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to them that believe on his name."

God loves you. And you maybe sitting here, right now, wondering why you feel like you would like to receive God, you would like to have assurance of salvation, but why you don't.

Listen, recognize that the very desire to want to know God is because God is working in your life.

But, also, recognize that our stubbornness and our selfishness is reacting against God's love....Our sin nature wants to keep us away from God's wonderful love...The Bible says that we need to let go and let God have his way in our life.

Jesus came into the world...he died on the cross...he rose from the dead....WHY?.... So that we might have life..salvation....fellowship once again with the living God....

And it is yours through faith....SAYING YES TO GOD....YES I BELIEVE... YES...I RECEIVE JESUS AS MY SAIOUR.....

Shall we close in prayer