Faith and Obedience: OT and NT
(Romans 10:19-21)

Like picking up a large sponge dripping with water out of a bucket, the passages we have been studying of late and will be studying today in the New Testament are saturated with the Old Testament. In Romans chapters 9–11, Paul uses the Old Testament to explain what God is doing with the nation of Israel in his day. His readers wanted to know if Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah, why are so few Jewish people becoming Christians? What is up with, not just their absence, but how do we explain their hostility towards Christians? Something seems askew.

In the process, we will see how Paul interprets many Old Testament prophetic passages that pertain to Israel as a nation. Noticing what Paul is doing, it is not long before one realizes that prophesies about Israel as a nation are treated not as something that will occur in the distant future, but they were being fulfilled in his own day. Reading the New Testament and comparing it to the Old, it should dawn on us, that he was, and we continue to be, in the last days! (Compare Acts 2:17–21 with Joel 2: 28–32).

Last week, we saw how Paul used Deuteronomy 30 and Isaiah 52–53. This week we will see how he used other Old Testament passages: Deuteronomy 32 and Isaiah 63–65.We will be covering a lot of ground this week as we look at this Old Testament laden Scripture of Paul's Epistle to the Romans, such as, God's salvation through atonement, and faith and obedience as they are found in both the OT and the NT. The Old Testament people of God looked for *forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God by grace through faith in God's atoning work*. That may now sound like a lot of theological words devoid of much meaning to you now, Lord willing, by the message's end, you will understand clearly exactly what "forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God by grace through faith in God's atoning work" is all about. Hopefully, you will perceive how needy we all are and how God, out of His goodness, has come to meet our most vital need.

Chart 1. Romans 10:19–21 (with Old Testament sources)

19 Again I ask: Did Israel not understand? First, Moses says, "I will make you envious by those who are not a nation; I will make you angry by a nation that has no understanding." 20 And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me." 21 But concerning Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and obstinate people."	They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding. (Deuteronomy 32:21) 1 I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.' 2 All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations-- (Isaiah 65:1–2)

Outline:

1. Squeezing the Old Testament Scriptures out of this passage in Romans
2. What is Paul teaching us here?
3. Faith, Obedience, and the Atonement in OT & NT

Let us squeeze the Old Testament Scriptures out of this passage in Romans

Paul is quoting two passages: Deuteronomy 32:21 and Isaiah 65: 1–2

Deuteronomy 32:21

This is found in the Song of Moses. Turn to Deut. 32 [page 202 in pew Bible]. This is a song about the future. The LORD is pictured as a rock. He took care of them in the wilderness. But the day will come when His people are prospering that they will forget the LORD.

> ***Deuteronomy 32:15-21*** *15 Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; filled with food, he became heavy and sleek. He abandoned the God who made him and rejected the Rock his Savior. 16 They made him jealous with their foreign gods and angered him with their detestable idols. 17 They sacrificed to demons, which are not God-- gods they had not known, gods that recently appeared, gods your fathers did not fear. 18 You deserted the Rock, who fathered you; you forgot the God who gave you birth. 19 The LORD saw this and rejected them because he was angered by his sons and daughters. 20 "I will hide my face from them," he said, "and see what their end will be; for they are a perverse generation, children who are unfaithful. 21 They made me jealous by what is no god and angered me with their worthless idols. I will make them envious by those who are not a people; I will make them angry by a nation that has no understanding.*

NIV footnote – Jeshurun means the upright one, that is Israel. The Gentiles would provoke them to anger. When the tax-collectors, sinners, and Gentiles followed Christ they got angry. We see this throughout the life of Christ. When Jesus was gracious, the Jewish religious leaders squawked, “What, he eats with tax-collectors and sinners!” “He obviously does not know what kind of woman she is (a prostitute).” See also Acts 13:42–48.

Isaiah 65: 1–2

1 I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'	Gentiles heard and followed Christ
2 All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations-- (Isaiah 65:1–2)	The Jewish people (nation) did not follow Christ

Isaiah 63:10 – Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit (see Ephesians 4:30)

What is Paul teaching us here?

Israel’s rebellion is not new to the time of Christ. It was throughout the OT. They were hostile to the prophets in the OT (Ahab vs Elijah, The kings of Judah vs Jeremiah, etc.).

Major lesson, the NT full of OT passages and both describe the nation of Israel the same way.

Isaiah 1:2-4 *[2] Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: "I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. [3] The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner's manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand." [4] Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.*

Faith, Obedience, and the Atonement in OT & NT

Atonement (God provided forgiveness and salvation)

Old Testament	New Testament
Adam & Eve (skin covering) Abraham & Isaac (ram provided) Passover (lamb to avert judgment) Day of Atonement (sin offering)	John the Baptist pointing to Christ (Behold the lamb of God) Christ (crucifixion / lamb slain) Revelation (lamb on the throne)

Faith and Obedience

Old Testament	New Testament
Adam sinned due to unbelief and disobedience To rectify – believe and walk in new obedience	To rectify – believe and walk in new obedience

The root – saved by grace through faith >The fruit – new obedience

What does it mean?

"forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to God by grace through faith in God's atoning work

How are we made right with God? forgiven? reconciled?

- The atonement of Christ (the cross)
- Our sins are imputed (reckoned) to Christ
- Christ's righteousness is imputed to us

Where does faith come from?

Romans 10:14-17 *[14] How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? [15] And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" [16] But not all the Israelites accepted the good news. For Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" [17] Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.*

Preacher sent > message > hearing > faith

Review Romans 9:30–10:21. [page 1098 in pew Bible].

- Paul's Jewish kinsmen had a zeal for the law. Is that okay?
  Answer – we should all seek to please God, but our efforts cannot save us
- What is the place of obedience?
  Answer - it is the fruit not the root of obedience (Rom 1:5, 16:26 – the obedience of faith)