

# Romans 3 B

# Romans

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<p>Is there an advantage in being a Jew?</p>	<p>Yes, the godly heritage attached to the Scriptures which Israel were given first.</p>
<p>But the Jewish nation has rejected Yeshua as Messiah. Has this brought G-d's faithfulness to His Word into question?</p>	<p>NO, not at all. The rejection of Yeshua by the Jewish nation is a reflection of mankind's basic, sinful nature. G-d is always true and man a liar.</p>

Then what you're saying, Paul, is that Israel's unbelief is actually a good thing because it highlights G-d's righteousness and justice. And if so, why would G-d punish Israel for something that actually works in His favor? Isn't it wrong for G-d to punish Israel when her unbelief actually demonstrates His righteousness?

No. If God is unjust, everything is lost and the very judgment day that will wrap up history cannot happen.

But if my rejection of Yeshua gives an opportunity for G-d to be seen as all that much more glorious, why should I get punished for something that makes G-d look good? Maybe my evil actually brings about good!

People who think this way deserve the condemnation they will receive.

So, if there's an advantage in being Jewish, are Jews better (or worse) than Gentiles?

No. The greatest proof of the equality of Jew and Gentile is that both are naturally sinners – both are equally guilty before G-d, and unable to achieve their own righteousness before Him

Rom 3:6 **Let it not be!** Otherwise, how will God judge the world?

Rom 3:7 For if in my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I yet judged as a sinner?

See 5b

Rom 3:8 LITV And not (**as we are wrongly accused, and as some report us to say**), Let us do bad things so that good things may come, *the* judgment of whom is just.

See  
Acts 21  
Ref. to the  
“oral”  
halacha

Act 21:21 LITV And they were informed about you, that you teach falling away from Moses, telling all the Jews throughout the nations not to circumcise *their* children, **nor to walk in the customs.**

Rom. 3:8

“wrongly accused” =

βλασφημέω

blasphēmeō

1) to speak

reproachfully, rail at,

revile, calumniate,

blaspheme

2) to be evil spoken

of, reviled, railed at

We **must** keep it very clear in our minds that Paul’s point is that, “**No one** is able to be righteous by keeping the Torah perfectly, because **no one** is faithful to the righteousness set out in the Torah.” See Rom 3:7

Rom 3:9-10 LITV What then?  
Do we excel? Not at all! For we  
have charged **both Jews and  
Greeks** before, all *with* being  
under sin; (10) according as it  
has been written, "*There is not a  
righteous one, not even one!*"

The **Masoretic Text (MT)** is the  
authoritative Hebrew text of the  
Jewish Bible regarded almost  
universally as the official version of  
the Tanakh It defines not just the  
books of the Jewish canon, but also  
the precise letter-text of the biblical  
books in Judaism, as well as their  
vocalization and accentuation known  
as the Masorah.

Psa. 14:2 Masoretic  
Text

“no one does good”

Psa. 13:3 Lxx

“No one is doing  
what is upright,  
there is not even  
one.”

Paul – Rom 3:10

“There is not a  
righteous one, not  
even one.”

Rom 3:9 What then? Do **we excel?**

\*προέχομαι *proechemai*

- 1) *to have before or in advance of another, to have pre-eminence over another, to excel, surpass*
- 2) *to surpass in excellencies which can be passed to one's credit*

**Not at all! For we have charged both Jews and Greeks before, all *with* being under sin;**

For Paul and hence for us **righteousness**, the status of being righteous, is an imputed status that comes in true faithfulness in the life of the believer. **NO person can achieve this on their own merits!**

**Paul does not consider association with the chosen people of Israel to confer upon an individual the status of righteous.**

**Paul's "theology" of righteousness is not one of "in Israel" but of "in Messiah."**

Rom 3:10 LITV according  
as it has been written,  
"*There is not a righteous  
one, not even one!*"

MT, Psa14:2: no  
one does good

Lxx Psa. 13:3: No  
one is doing what is  
upright...

Paul here gives us a critical perspective! In quoting Psa. 14:2 from the Masoretic Text and Psa. 13:3 from the Lxx which both have verbs of “doing” (Hebrew: oseh and Grk. poieo) . Paul however quotes them with a stative verb “no one is righteous. This is Paul’s *normative* theological view that one who does good is good.

Paul also probably had in mind Ecc 7:20 LITV For *there is* not a just man on the earth who does good, and does not sin.

Rom 3:11-12 LITV "*There is not one understanding; there is not one seeking God.*" (12) All turned away, *they* became worthless together, not *one is* doing goodness, not so much as one!" *LXX-Psa. 13:1-3*

MT Ps. 14:2-3 Adonai from heaven looked upon the sons of man to see if there is anyone who understands, who seeks after G-d. All of them have turned aside, together they have become worthless. There is no one who does good, not even one.

Lxx Psa. 13:2-3 The Lord out of heaven looked down upon the sons of men in order to see if there were those who understand or who seek after G-d. All have turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does uprightness, there is not even one.

## Rom 3:11-12

Paul passes over the initial phrase – instead he takes the negative approach “no one understands....no one seeks”

The word translated “understands” is the Grk. Σύνιημι suniēmi

1) to set or bring together

1a) in a hostile sense, of combatants

2) to put (as it were) the perception with the thing perceived

2a) to set or join together in the mind

2a1) i.e. to understand: the man of understanding

2a2) idiom for: a good and upright man (having the

knowledge of

those things which pertain to salvation)

The Hebrew “sachal” can be translated “understanding (Deut. 32:29) “to have success” (!Sam. 18:5) or “to act with insight, devotion and piety” (Isa. 53:12

Paul seems to wish to convey the idea of “moral” understanding of which success and piety are a part.

See Rom. 1:21 ff

## Rom 3:11-12

“who seeks after G-d... All turned away *they* became worthless together”

Seeking after G-d is very common in the Tanch **but** only in reference to those in covenant relationship with Him.

Ex. 33:7; Ezra 8:22; Ps. 9:10; 24:6; Prov. 28:5; Isa. 9:13; 31:1 .

Note!!! To turn aside (Heb. Sur) means to cease to follow directly after G-d, which fundamentally means to walk after one's own way!

The Heb. word translated “worthless” is parallel to what we see in:

Psa 53:3 LITV Every one has turned aside, together they are **corrupted**, not one is doing good, not even one!

Job 15:16 LITV How much more loathed and **corrupted** is man who drinks injustice like water

Rom 3:13

Psa. 5:10

MT

Lxx

Paul

An open grave  
is their throat,  
with their  
tongue they  
flatter

An open grave  
is their throat,  
with their  
tongue they  
flatter

An open grave  
is their throat,  
with their  
tongues they  
flatter

Rom 3:13

Psa. 140:4

MT

Lxx

Paul

The burning  
[fury-poison] of  
a viper is under  
his lips

The poison of a  
viper is under  
their lips. Selah  
(Psa. 139:4)

The poison of a  
viper is under  
their lips

Rom 3:13-14 LITV "Their throat *is* a tomb being opened;" "they used deceit with their tongues; *the* poison of asps *is* under their lips; (14) whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness.

Paul quotes Ps. 5:9 from the Lxx stringing it to Ps. 140:3

In Ps. 5:9 uses the word Heb. *yachailikun* "flatter" its root means "smooth or slippery"

The Lxx (Grk.) uses the term *edoloiusan* from a root meaning "to deal treacherously"

*Jas 1:26 LITV If anyone thinks to be religious among you, yet not bridling his tongue, but deceiving his heart, this one's religion is vain.*

Rom 3:14-18 LITV

**" (14) whose mouth *is* full of cursing and bitterness. (15) Their feet *are* swift to shed blood; (16) ruin and misery *are* in their way; (17) and they did not know a way of peace; (18) there is no fear of God before their eyes."**

*LXX-Psa. 5:10; 139:4; 9:28; Isa. 59:7, 8; Psa. 35:2; MT-Psa. 14:1-3; 5:9; 140:3; 10:7; Isa. 59:7, 8; Psa. 36:1*

Rom 3:14-18

Psa. 10:7

MT

Lxx

Paul

His mouth is full  
of cursing and  
bitterness and  
oppression

Whose mouth is  
full of cursing  
and bitterness  
and deceit.  
(Psa. 9:28)

Whose mouth is  
full of cursing  
and bitterness  
(Rom 3:14)

Rom 3:14-18

Isaiah 59:7-8a

MT	Lxx	Paul
<p>Their feet run to evil, and they hasten to shed innocent blood; their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; devastation and destruction are their highways. They do not know the way of peace.</p>	<p>Their feet run to evil, and they hurry to shed innocent blood and their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; devastation and destruction are in their ways and the way of peace they have not known</p>	<p>Their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths, and the path of peace they have not known. Rom 3:14-17</p>

Rom 3:14-18

Psalm 36:2

MT

LXX

Paul

There is no fear of  
G-d before his  
eyes.

There is no fear of  
G-d before his  
eyes.

There is no fear of  
G-d before their  
eyes.

## Rom 3:14-18

We see here that not only is man not righteous but is actively engaged in what is clearly unrighteousness

This always accompanies a self-centered heart

Interestingly it is trials that reveal the true condition of the soul. In the unbeliever they produce cursing and bitterness. In the believer---  
**Jas 1:2-3 LITV My brothers count *it* all joy when you fall into various trials, (3) knowing that the proving of your faith works patience.**

1Pe 1:3-9 LITV Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, He according to His great mercy having regenerated us to a living hope through *the* resurrection of Jesus Christ from *the* dead, (4) to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and unfading, having been kept in Heaven for you (5) *the ones* in *the* power of God being guarded through faith to a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time; (6) **in which you exult; yet a little *while*, if need be, grieving in manifold trials, (7) so that the proving of your faith, much more precious than perishing gold, but having been proved through fire**, may be found to praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ; (8) whom having not seen, you love; in whom not yet seeing, but believing, you exult with joy unspeakable and being glorified, (9) obtaining the end of your faith, the salvation of *your* souls.

Rom 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that **every** mouth may be stopped, and the **whole world** may be held accountable to God.