

VERSE 7 What then (τί οὖν; [*interrog.pro.acc.nt.s. tis what? + conj. oun then*])?

What Israel is seeking, it has not obtained, but those who were chosen obtained

it, and the rest were hardened (ὃ ἐπιζητεῖ Ἰσραήλ, τοῦτο οὐκ ἐπέτυχεν, ἡ δὲ ἐκλογή ἐπέτυχεν· οἱ δὲ λοιποὶ ἐπωρώθησαν [*pro.acc.nt.s. hos "What" + pres.act.ind.3s. epizeteo seek, search for + noun nom.m.s. Israel + pro.acc.nt.s. houtos this + neg. ouk + aor.act.ind.3s. epitugchano obtain + conj. de but + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. ekloge chosen, elect + aor.act.ind.3s. epitugchano obtain + conj. de and + d.a.w/adj.nom.m.p. loipos rest + aor.pass.ind.3p. poroo made stubborn; "were hardened"; cf. 2 Cor. 3:14*]);

VERSE 8 just as it is written (καθὼς γέγραπται, [*conj. kathos just as + pf.pass.ind.3s. grapho*]), **"GOD GAVE THEM A SPIRIT OF STUPOR, EYES TO SEE NOT AND EARS**

TO HEAR NOT, DOWN TO THIS VERY DAY [Ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ὁ θεὸς πνεῦμα κατανύξεως, ὀφθαλμοὺς τοῦ μὴ βλέπειν καὶ ὠτα τοῦ μὴ ἀκούειν, ἕως τῆς σήμερον ἡμέρας [*aor.act.ind.3s. didomi give + pro.dat.m.p. autos "them" + d.a.w/noun nom.m.s. theos + noun acc.nt.s. pneuma spirit + noun gen.f.s. katanuzis stupor, numbness + noun acc.m.p. ophthalmos eye + neg.me + d.a.w/pres.act.infin. belpo see + conj. kai + noun acc.nt.p. ous ear + neg. me + d.a.w/noun pres.act.infin. akouo hear + prep. eos until + adv. semerron this very day + d.a.w/noun gen.f.s. hemera day*])."

VERSE 9 And David says, "LET THEIR TABLE BECOME A SNARE AND A TRAP,

AND A STUMBLING BLOCK AND A RETRIBUTION TO THEM (καὶ Δαυὶδ λέγει,

Γενηθήτω ἡ τράπεζα αὐτῶν εἰς παγίδα καὶ εἰς θήραν καὶ εἰς σκάνδαλον καὶ εἰς ἀνταπόδομα αὐτοῖς [*conj. kai + noun nom.m.s. David + pres.act.ind.3s. lego say + aor.pass.imper.3s. ginomai become + d.a.w/noun nom.f.s. trapeza table + pro.gen.m.p. autos "their" + prep eis + noun acc.f.s. pagis snare + conj. kai + noun acc.f.s. theras trap + conj. kai + prep eis to + noun*]

acc.nt.s. skandalon stumbling block + conj. kai + prep. eis to + noun acc.nt.s. antapodoma retribution]).

VERSE 10 "LET THEIR EYES BE DARKENED TO SEE NOT, AND BEND THEIR

BACKS FOREVER (σκοτισθήτωσαν οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ αὐτῶν τοῦ μὴ βλέπειν καὶ τὸν νῶτον αὐτῶν

διὰ παντὸς σύγκαμψον [*aor.pass.imper.3p. skotizomai become darkened + d.a.w/noun nom.m.p.*

ophthalmos eye + pro.gen.m.s. autos + neg. me + d.a.w/pres.act.infin. blepo see + conj. kai +

d.a.w.noun acc.m.s. noton the back + pro.gen.p. autos + prep. dia + adj.gen.nt.s. pas all; w/dia

+ always + aor.act.imper.2s. sugkampto bend ."

ANALYSIS: VERSES 7-10

1. The "What then?" introduces a summary of the prevailing spiritual status quo of the great majority of Jews.
2. Paul sets forth their failure in the same vein as in 9:31-32 and 10:2-3.
3. Religious Jews practicing Judaism pursue righteous with zeal, yet to no avail.
4. They go about it all the wrong way following a salvation by works system.
5. They misuse the Torah (Law of Moses) which was never designed to enable people to achieve the +R factor necessary to gain eternal salvation.
6. Salvation is through their suffering Messiah which prophecies they have distorted or simply ignored!
7. Their efforts to this day are of no avail despite their zeal.
8. Zeal apart from true knowledge is worthless and harmful to those who are so inclined.
9. In the case of Israel, as is the case of greater humanity, the unbelief of the many does not invalidate the faith of the minority who follow the true path to imputed righteousness.
10. Again, Paul asserts that "Israel has not obtained what it seeks."
11. Judaism is bankrupt in terms of honoring God and His plan of salvation centered in the Person and work of Jesus Christ.
12. The phrase "but those who were chosen obtained it" refers the righteousness factor, which is imputed to those who simply believe in Christ.
13. So the positive and intellectually honest among the chosen race lined up with the way to +R.
14. God credits to the account of anyone who believes in His Son +R which is essential to achieving E.L. (Isa. 28:16c; quoted in Rom. 9:33; 10:11; 1 Pet. 2:6).
15. But those who remained intransigent, God "hardened."
16. In other words, He allowed them to practice false religion, which in the case of the Jews, was to substitute the commandments for simple faith in their Messiah.
17. The hardening of negative volition is a judicial function totally compatible with divine justice.
18. Here Paul restates the doctrine in 9:18.
19. So hardening is the upshot of unbelief and disobedience.
20. As believers we are warned against it (cf. Heb. 3:7, 12-15).

21. What follows in vv. 8-10 is OT documentation in support of: “the rest were hardened.”
22. V. 8 is taken mostly from Deut. 29:4 (LXX 29:3).
23. Instead of “the Lord has not given you a heart to know (MT), Paul adopts Isa. 29:10, which reads God “pours over them a spirit of deep sleep.”
24. A spirit of stupor refers to a total lack of sensitivity to the truth.
25. God has turned them over to this state, and while He is not the author of their negative volition, He is behind the consequences.
26. People who consistently reject the truth become numb to spiritual things.
27. “Spirit” here refers to a temperament or disposition.
28. Negative types all display this dullness or lack of sensitivity when confronted with Scripture that does not fit with their current understanding.
29. Modern Judaism is a classic example of this mind-set.
30. “Eyes not to see” refers to soulish perspicacity.
31. Like a blind person extremely hampered by poor eyesight, they eventually fall into the pit as Jesus said in Matt. 15:14 (“they are blind guides of the blind, and if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into the pit.”).
32. “Ears to hear not” refers to the fact that negative volition is not teachable distorting what they do hear (cp. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; 13:9).
33. What they hear they distort being under the control of the STA.
34. Israel throughout her history demonstrated blindness and deafness (cf. Acts 7:51 “You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did.”).
35. The pattern of rejecting BD characterized Israel’s history whether in Moses’ day or Paul’s.
36. By Paul’s day their unbelief has sunk to new levels surpassing anything from their past.
37. This explains their centuries in exile (Ezek. 39:23-24).
38. Their resurgence as a nation with the ongoing return of Jews from the nations, notwithstanding.
39. Their return to the Promised Land is not because of any righteousness in them (Ezek. 36:22).
40. “And David says” is a quote documenting Israelite perfidy taken from Psa. 69:22 & 23 (LXX Psa. 68:23 & 24).
41. This quotation follows a Messianic prophecy dealing with Jesus’ ordeal on the cross (Psa. 69:21 “They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”).
42. David speaking on behalf of God offers up a prayer of imprecation (a curse).
43. This is directed at all unbeliever Jews, but especially those leaders who conspired against Jesus resulting in His crucifixion.
44. This curse is upon their table (i.e. place of fellowship) where they gather together and enjoy the bounty of God and talk.
45. Here they reinforce each other in their presumed relationship with God.
46. The Jews who plotted the murder of Jesus considered themselves right with God.
47. People who enjoy the good things of life, especially religious types, think God is for them.
48. The Jews of Jesus’ day lost their nation under very adverse circumstances.
49. How did they miss that one (cf. Ezek. 36:19 “And I scattered them among the nations and they were dispersed throughout the lands. According to their ways and their deeds I judged them.”)?

50. Clearly, any student of the Torah could have easily ascertained that it was due to Jewish attacks upon Jesus and His followers.
51. And for some two thousand years they have suffered among the nations to one degree or another.
52. The gathering place for the conspiracy to murder Jesus has “become a snare and a trap.”
53. This analogy is taken from some kind of bait which lures a wild animal to its doom.
54. “A stumbling block” adds to the imagery of doom.
55. People regularly experience fatal falls.
56. They faced the truth (they knew Jesus was the Messiah!) and stumbled over it remaining in a state of unbelief.
57. The “retribution” refers to Jewish suffering in the land and out of it.
58. “Let their eyes be darkened” refers to Jewish blindness with respect to who and what Jesus is.
59. “And bend their backs forever” refers to their eternal doom in hell and the LOF.