



December 14, 2025

Hear and Believe!

Romans 10:13-21

After describing God's past dealings with Israel, Paul turns in Romans 10 to Israel's present condition. Tragically, most of the Jewish people remain in unbelief. The central theme of the chapter is Israel's current rejection of Christ. In verses 14–15a, Paul raises four crucial questions. In the rest of the chapter, he answers those questions by quoting several Old Testament passages. In doing so, Paul makes one truth unmistakably clear: **Israel is responsible for its unbelief**. The nation heard the gospel of Jesus Christ yet refused to listen and believe. They rejected both the message and the Messiah.

In the same way, every person today is responsible for how they respond to the gospel.

Lessons from God's dealing with Israel

1. You are responsible to respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ (10:13–15, 17).

You are called:

- **To believe** the message of Christ.
- **To proclaim** the message of Christ.

2. You are responsible for your unbelief (10:16–21).

Paul's argument unfolds as follows:

- Israel has indeed **heard** the gospel (v. 18a).



- The message has gone out into all the earth (v. 18b).
- Israel **should have known** that the Gentiles would be welcomed and that Israel could be excluded (v. 19a).
- Moses foretold that God would provoke Israel to jealousy through another nation (v. 19b).
- Isaiah prophesied that God would reveal Himself to Gentiles who were not seeking Him (v. 20),
- while Israel would stubbornly resist His invitation to salvation (v. 21). ¹

Israel's unbelief displayed:

- **A refusal to listen**
- **A rejection of Jesus Christ**
- **A rejection of God's grace and mercy**

The Nature of Unbelief

Looking at Israel's response, we learn that unbelief is:

1. Unreasonable (vs. 16 - 17)

¹ Schreiner, T. R. (1998). *Romans* (Vol. 6, p. 565). Baker Books



2. Unrelenting (v. 21)

John Phillips summarizes it well:

“In spite of God’s privileges to the nation of Israel, in spite of His long-suffering and in spite of His repeated invitations and warnings, Israel has persisted in rebellion and remonstrance.”
— *Romans*, p. 163

Application

What will you do with the gospel?

You have heard it. You understand it. You are responsible to respond to it.

- Will you believe?
- Will you turn to Christ?
- Will you proclaim Him to others?
- Or will you reject God’s grace as Israel did?

Romans 10 confronts us with a sobering but life-giving truth:

God has stretched out His hands to you. The question is—will you hear and believe?