

Romans Chapter Ten

Romans 10:1-7 Israel's Rejection of The Faith Cont.

Paul continues in chapter 10 with his deep love and concern with the spiritual state of his Jewish brethren. They are brethren, both by virtue of physical birth and spiritual relationship. God's divine promise of the Messiah came through this people chosen by Him for this purpose. Yet his punishment of them for their unrighteousness was fully justified by their rebellion against Him. God is a just and righteous God, He keeps His promises. Paul's Jewish brethren failed because of their works, now God's grace has been offered to all mankind, Jew and Gentile alike.

v.1 "BRETHREN, MY HEART'S DESIRE AND MY SUPPLICATION TO GOD IS FOR THEM, THAT THEY MAY BE SAVED." (ASV)

Paul's fondest dream, his greatest desire, his prayer before God is that his Jewish brethren would turn to God and seek the salvation of their souls, but there is a problem.

v.2 "FOR I BEAR THEM WITNESS THAT THEY HAVE A ZEAL FOR GOD, BUT NOT ACCORDING TO KNOWLEDGE." (ASV)

They are a headstrong, obstinate people. God tells us that:

Isaiah 48:4 "BECAUSE I KNEW THAT THOU ART OBSTINATE, AND THY NECK IS AN IRON SINEW, AND THY BROW BRASS;" "STIFFNECKED"
Exodus 32:9

When truly converted, extremely zealous in their efforts but not according to the knowledge of God. Does this sound like part of the root cause of the situation in the Middle East today?

They were zealous of the Law of Moses (**Acts 21:20**), as zealous concerning the Law of Moses as Paul had been:

Acts 22:3 "I AM A JEW, BORN IN TARSUS OF CILICIA, BUT BROUGHT UP IN THIS CITY, AT THE FEET OF GAMALIEL, INSTRUCTED ACCORDING TO THE STRICT MANNER OF THE LAW OF OUR FATHERS, BEING ZEALOUS FOR GOD, EVEN AS YE ALL ARE THIS DAY."

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So both Paul and his Jewish brethren were extremely zealous of the Mosaic Law and of God. But the Jews lack of knowledge of the true nature of God, their refusal to hear and heed the prophecies concerning the Messiah, their refusal to accept the message of the herald of the King, John the Baptizer, and of Jesus himself was their downfall.

v.3 "FOR BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND SEEKING TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN, THEY DID NOT SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD." (ASV)

So what was their basic problem? They had a lack of faith, true faith in God and God's word. They understood the precepts and commandments of the law; they followed the rituals and did the activities that were required under that law for worship to God. They followed the form, or pattern of their faith but did not understand the righteousness of God. Their real faith in God was as shallow as the water in a flat plate.

Romans 9:31-32 "BUT ISRAEL, FOLLOWING AFTER A LAW OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, DID NOT ARRIVE AT THAT LAW. WHEREFORE? BECAUSE THEY SOUGHT IT NOT BY FAITH, BUT AS IT WERE BY WORKS. THEY STUMBLER AT THE STONE OF STUMBLING;" (ASV)

v.4 "FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH." (ASV)

Jesus Christ, the Messiah, brought an end to the Mosaic Law under which they worshipped.

Galatians 3:24-25 "SO THAT THE LAW IS BECOME OUR TUTOR TO BRING US UNTO CHRIST, THAT WE MIGHT BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH. BUT NOW FAITH THAT IS COME, WE ARE NO LONGER UNDER A TUTOR." (ASV)

Those who rejected Jesus Christ and tried to cling to the rituals and works of the old law were not only ignorant of the righteousness of God but equally ignorant of God's plan for man's redemption and it's fulfillment through his Son. This ignorance is still prevalent today. My correspondence course students reinforce that fact on a regular basis.

v.5 "FOR MOSES WRITETH THAT THE MAN THAT DOETH THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF THE LAW SHALL LIVE THEREBY." (ASV)

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The Law of Mose was righteous; it was given to His people by God himself. Through obedience to that Law, the people of Israel could "LIVE", that is be righteous in the sight of God.

Leviticus 18:5 "YE SHALL THEREFORE KEEP MY STATUTES, AND MINE ORDINANCES; WHICH IF A MAN DO, HE SHALL LIVE IN THEM: I AM JEHOVAH." (ASV)

But that obedience had to be perfect, they could not transgress any part or piece of that law because to do so was sin (**I John 3:4**).

Deuteronomy 27:26 "CURSED BE HE THAT CONFIRMETH NOT THE WORDS OF THIS LAW TO DO THEM. AND ALL THE PEOPLE SHALL SAY, AMEN." (ASV)

Neither Israel nor we today would be capable of living without any transgression of God's law for all sin (**Romans 3:23**).

v.6-7 "BUT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS OF FAITH SAITH THUS, SAY NOT IN THY HEART, WHO SHALL ASCEND INTO HEAVEN? (THAT IS, TO BRING CHRIST DOWN:) OR, WHO SHALL DESCEND INTO THE ABYSS? (THAT IS, TO BRING CHRIST UP FROM THE DEAD.)" (ASV)

The basis for the faith of the Jewish people of Jesus' day was their desire and dream that the Messiah that God promised would restore the physical nation of Israel to the grandeur and power that it enjoyed under David and Solomon. We discuss this mindset several times during our studies of the gospels. The concept of a spiritual kingdom of God was a stumbling block that many of these people just couldn't get over, even though it was prophesied by their own prophets that this would be true:

Isaiah 8:14-15 "AND HE SHALL BE FOR A SANCTUARY; BUT FOR A STONE OF STUMBLING AND FOR A ROCK OF OFFENCE TO BOTH THE HOUSES OF ISRAEL, FOR A GIN AND FOR A SNARE TO THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM. AND MANY SHALL STUMBLE THEREON, AND FALL, AND BE BROKEN, AND BE SNARED, AND BE TAKEN." (ASV)

A prophecy, a condition that the apostle Peter confirms came to be true:

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I Peter 2:8 "AND, A STONE OF STUMBLING, AND A ROCK OF OFFENCE; FOR THEY STUMBLE AT THE WORD, BEING DISOBEDIENT: WHEREUNTO ALSO THEY WERE APPOINTED." (ASV)

Romans 10:8-10 – Conditions of Salvation

v8. "BUT WHAT SAITH IT? THE WORD IS NIGH THEE, IN THY MOUTH, AND IN THY HEART: THAT IS, THE WORD OF FAITH, WHICH WE PREACH:" (ASV)

So where is the righteousness of God found? Paul says it is found in that same word of faith that he was preaching. Where does this word of faith come from today? The same place - the word of God faithfully taught or preached in our classrooms and from our pulpits. "FAITH COMES BY HEARING..." **v17**

v9. "BECAUSE IF THOU SHALT CONFESS WITH THY MOUTH JESUS AS LORD, AND SHALT BELIEVE IN THY HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, THOU SHALT BE SAVED:" (ASV)

In **Matthew 10:32** we have this promise from Jesus himself "EVERY ONE THEREFORE WHO SHALL CONFESS ME BEFORE MEN, HIM WILL I ALSO CONFESS BEFORE MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN." (ASV)

Luke 12:8 is similar in nature "AND I SAY UNTO YOU, EVERY ONE WHO SHALL CONFESS ME BEFORE MEN, HIM SHALL THE SON OF MAN ALSO CONFESS BEFORE THE ANGELS OF GOD:" (ASV)

In **Acts 8:37** we have provided for us by the inspiration of God an example to follow in the confession of the Ethiopian treasurer: "AND PHILIP SAID, IF THOU BELIEVEST WITH ALL THY HEART, THOU MAYEST. AND HE ANSWERED AND SAID, I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD." (ASV) This is the initial confession that we must make before being baptized, just as the Ethiopian did. This confession is then further extended by the life that we live after baptism.

God's righteousness is now been found in the word of faith. It is through obedient faith then that righteousness becomes the possession of all those who confess with the mouth that Jesus is Lord. It comes to those who believe in their heart that God raised Him from the dead and live that faith in their initial obedience to God and living of their daily lives as His obedient children.

v10. "FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION."

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Righteousness, right living, cannot exist unless it has its root in our hearts. It must begin with and first change the heart. The faith that is in our hearts leads us on to the righteousness of the life in Christ Jesus.

Paul here is considering the Jewish readers in particular. He has already shown them that men must believe (**Romans 5:1-2**); be baptized (**Romans 6:3-8**); walk after the Spirit (**Romans 8:12-14**); now why hadn't the Jews received salvation? They had refused to believe and confess Jesus as Lord. (**Romans 10:9-10**)

It also important that we remember that we confess "UNTO" (the Greek word is "eis") salvation. Many of our denominational neighbors and some of our apostate brethren would have us believe the old Primitive Baptist doctrine that we are saved only by the grace of God. Then because we are saved we obey the commandments to repent, confess and be baptized in order; not to become a child of God but because we already are a child of God. This doctrine is false and in direct conflict with what the Holy Spirit has revealed here through the pen of the Apostle Paul.

Romans 10:11-13 – Opportunity for Salvation

Paul changes the thought here to discuss the fact that salvation is available to all that believe and obey; both Jew and Gentile.

v11. "FOR THE SCRIPTURE SAITH, WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH ON HIM SHALL NOT BE PUT TO SHAME." (ASV)

The Holy Spirit here leads us back to the prophecy recorded as follows (this is God's proof text if you will):

Isaiah 28:16 "THEREFORE THUS SAITH THE LORD JEHOVAH, BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION FOR A FOUNDATION A STONE, A TRIED STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER -STONE OF SURE FOUNDATION: HE THAT BELIEVETH SHALL NOT BE IN HASTE." (ASV)

Jeremiah 17:7 "BLESSED IS THE MAN THAT TRUSTETH IN JEHOVAH, AND WHOSE TRUST JEHOVAH IS." (ASV)

v12. "FOR THERE IS NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN JEW AND GREEK: FOR THE SAME LORD IS LORD OF ALL, AND IS RICH UNTO ALL THAT CALL UPON HIM:" (ASV)

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We remember Peter and the Jerusalem church having to learn this lesson in **Acts 10:34-35**. Speaking of his call to preach to the household of Cornelius: "THEN PETER OPEN *his* MOUTH, AND SAID, OF A TRUTH I PERCIEVE THAT GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS: BUT IN EVERY NATION HE THAT FEARETH HIM, AND WORKETH RIGHTEOUSNESS, IS ACCEPTED WITH HIM."

This is confirmed through Paul in **Galatians 3:28** "THERE CAN BE NEITHER JEW NOR GREEK, THERE CAN BE NEITHER BOND NOR FREE, THERE CAN BE NO MALE AND FEMALE; FOR YE ALL ARE ONE MAN IN CHRIST JESUS." (ASV)

This same Lord is "LORD OF ALL". God had not cast off his people nor shown partiality to Gentiles. There is no distinction in the mind of God - who are ye oh, man, who makes a distinction? The Jews, even to this day, have always seemed to feel God's dealing with them was a matter of favoritism. What it was is God working out of a greater plan whereby both Jew and Gentile could be brought together in one body (**Ephesians 2:13-18**), equally sharing the grace of God.

v13. "FOR, WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED." (ASV)

Is "CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD", as man defines it, all that is necessary regarding our right relationship with God as is taught by Billy Graham and many others of the denominational world today?

Peter in his sermon on Pentecost said (**Acts 2:21**) "AND IT SHALL BE, THAT WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED." (ASV) and that this is a partial quotation of **Joel 2:32**. Then what else did Peter tell them to do for the remission of their sins?

This is the same "CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD" that was directed to Saul by Ananias in **Acts 22:16** "AND NOW WHY TARRIEST THOU? ARISE, AND BE BAPTIZED, AND WASH AWAY THY SINS, CALLING ON HIS NAME." (ASV)

Just "CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD" is not enough, just making a claim of belief, though confession is required, is not enough. (**Acts 8:37ff**) Jesus leaves no doubt in our minds that mere lip service, the outward profession of faith in God is not enough. In **Matthew 7:21** He tells us "NOT EVERY ONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD, LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN; BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY FATHER WHO IS IN HEAVEN."

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Romans 10:14-16 – Necessity of the Gospel

v14. "HOW THEN SHALL THEY CALL ON HIM IN WHOM THEY HAVE NOT BELIEVED? AND HOW SHALL THEY BELIEVE IN HIM WHOM THEY HAVE NOT HEARD? AND HOW SHALL THEY HEAR WITHOUT A PREACHER?" (ASV)

Since it is necessary for them and us to commit ourselves to the rule of God in order to enjoy salvation, how can we do that unless we have believed in Him? And how can we believe in Him if we've never heard of Him - we cannot. And how can we hear of him unless we are taught.

I Corinthians 1:21 "FOR SEEING THAT IN THE WISDOM OF GOD THE WORLD THROUGH ITS WISDOM KNEW NOT GOD, IT WAS GOD'S GOOD PLEASURE THROUGH THE FOOLISHNESS OF THE PREACHING TO SAVE THEM THAT BELIEVE." (ASV)

In this writing to Roman Jews, Paul is showing the absolute necessity of preaching Jesus unto the Gentiles who had not known God as the means of salvation.

v15. "AND HOW SHALL THEY PREACH, EXCEPT THEY BE SENT? EVEN AS IT IS WRITTEN, HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THEM THAT BRING GLAD TIDINGS OF GOOD THINGS!" (ASV)

There is somewhere among my books one written by a friend of mine several years ago using this theme to emphasize the necessity for evangelism. The front cover of this little book is the figure of a man with the ugliest pair of bare feet you ever saw – they look like mine; all knobby and crooked.

But lest we get confused this verse is not directed entirely to the modern day because here the preachers under discussion are God called and God sent. We find the prophecy in **Isaiah 52:7** "HOW BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS ARE THE FEET OF HIM THAT BRINGETH GOOD TIDINGS, THAT PUBLISHETH PEACE, THAT BRINGETH GOOD TIDINGS OF GOOD, THAT PUBLISHETH SALVATION, THAT SAITH UNTO ZION, THY GOD REIGNETH!" (ASV)

Inspired men were sent by God to preach and were necessary for man's salvation. But they had a special sending. Paul said of the gospel that he preached: "FOR NEITHER DID I RECEIVE IT FROM MAN, NOR WAS I TAUGHT IT, BUT IT CAME TO ME THROUGH REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST." (**Galatians 1:12**). (ASV)

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No one is called to preach or teach today in the same manner or sense that those who went forth as heralds to proclaim a new revelation from God. Some today claim a special calling but they're either false teachers or deluded. No one is called as Paul was called on the Damascus road, no one is called as Jesus called the twelve, no one is called as God called the prophets of old to proclaim his Word. Those were preachers or heralds in the truest sense of the word. Today however, we are teachers of what has been preached or proclaimed by these heralds that were sent forth in the centuries before and that has been recorded for our learning. They were endowed with the Holy Spirit, given a guide into all truth, we but study and repeat the precepts of God that they were taught and were directed to record by the Holy Spirit who was also guided by Jehovah God.

v16. "BUT THEY DID NOT ALL HEARKEN TO THE GLAD TIDINGS. FOR ISAIAH SAITH, LORD, WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?"

Isaiah in his preaching and prophesying before a nation of people who would not hear complained in **Isaiah 53:1** "WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR MESSAGE? AND TO WHOM HATH THE ARM OF JEHOVAH BEEN REVEALED?"

We have this prophesy fulfilled in the life of Jesus in **Matthew 12:37** and following where the people did not believe Jesus himself. They ignored the signs and wonders that he performed to confirm his words and asked for more.

It was the same in Paul's time as it had been in the days of Isaiah and of Jesus. After much preaching and teaching and looking at the meager result we would all be prone to ask "LORD, WHO HATH BELIEVED OUR REPORT?" And as we look at today the words of Jesus stand out as a prophesy fulfilled:

Matthew 7:14 "FOR NARROW IS THE GATE, AND STRAITENED THE WAY, THAT LEADETH UNTO LIFE, AND FEW ARE THEY THAT FIND IT." (ASV)

The Hebrew writer also speaks of this problem in **Hebrews 4:2** "FOR INDEED WE HAVE HAD GOOD TIDINGS PREACHED UNTO US, EVEN AS ALSO THEY: BUT THE WORD OF HEARING DID NOT PROFIT THEM, BECAUSE IT WAS NOT UNITED BY FAITH WITH THEM THAT HEARD."

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Romans 10:17-21 – Source of Faith

v17. "SO BELIEF COMETH OF HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF CHRIST." (ASV)

Faith is dependent on evidence, evidence that can be analyzed by reason -- always! Faith, as the Bible uses it, can come no other way. Faith cannot go where evidence does not lead and biblical Faith is never "a leap in the dark", "blind" nor can it be opposed to knowledge. God has so linked knowledge and faith together that man is foolish to seek faith without the knowledge which comes from evidence. Without that evidence there can be no knowledge or biblical faith. That evidence is presented today by the preaching and teaching of God's word.

v18. "BUT I SAY, DID THEY NOT HEAR? YEA, VERILY, THEIR SOUND WENT OUT INTO ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS UNTO THE ENDS OF THE WORLD." (ASV)

"BUT I SAY, HAVE THEY NOT HEARD?..." Jesus declared in **Matthew 24:14** "AND THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM SHALL BE PREACHED IN THE WHOLE WORLD FOR A TESTIMONY UNTO ALL THE NATIONS; AND THEN SHALL THE END COME." (ASV)

The great commission was the marching orders for his disciples from that day unto now: "AND HE SAID UNTO THEM, GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE WHOLE CREATION." **Mark 16:15** (ASV)

Paul wrote to the Colossian brethren "BECAUSE OF THE HOPE WHICH IS LAID UP FOR YOU IN THE HEAVENS, WHEREOF YE HEARD BEFORE IN THE WORD OF THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL, WHICH IS COME UNTO YOU; EVEN AS IT IS ALSO IN ALL THE WORLD BEARING FRUIT AND INCREASING, AS IT DOETH IN YOU ALSO, SINCE THE DAY YE HEARD AND KNEW THE GRACE OF GOD IN TRUTH;" **Colossians 1:5-6** (ASV)

Faith comes by hearing and the responsibility for men to have opportunity to hear rested upon the shoulders of those who were sent to preach; and they did their part. Paul says here that "THEIR SOUND WENT UNTO ALL THE EARTH". From the day of Pentecost through men who were in Jerusalem out of every nation under heaven, through the dispersion of the church from that city through persecution; the truth was carried to everyone that would hear. The Holy Spirit records through the pen of Paul:

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Colossians 1:23 "...WHICH WAS PREACHED TO EVERY CREATURE WHICH IN UNDER HEAVEN, WHEREOF I PAUL AM MADE A MINISTER." (ASV)

People the world over had ample opportunity to hear and accept the gospel of Jesus Christ, especially the Jews, and receive the promised Messiah.

v19. "BUT I SAY, DID ISRAEL NOT KNOW? FIRST MOSES SAITH, I WILL PROVOKE YOU TO JEALOUSY WITH THAT WHICH IS NO NATION, WITH A NATION VOID OF UNDERSTANDING WILL I ANGER YOU." (ASV)

Here the question is asked "DID NOT ISRAEL KNOW?" Didn't Israel know that the gospel would be preached to those outside Israelite family? If they did not, it was because they had closed their eyes, stopped their ears and refused to hear and see the plain teaching of the Old Testament Scriptures.

Paul quotes here from the latter part of **Deuteronomy 32:21** "THEY HAVE MOVED ME TO JEALOUSY WITH THAT WHICH IS NOT GOD; THEY HAVE PROVOKED ME TO ANGER WITH THEIR VANITIES: AND I WILL MOVE THEM TO JEALOUSY WITH THOSE THAT ARE NOT A PEOPLE; I WILL PROVOKE THEM TO ANGER WITH A FOOLISH NATION." (ASV)

This prophecy was fulfilled many times in many ways beginning with Cornelius. Luke records for us one example in **Acts 13** with Paul and Barnabas preaching in the city of Antioch of Pisidia. They went to the synagogue and preached there first as was their practice:

"AND THE NEXT SABBATH ALMOST THE WHOLE CITY WAS GATHERED TOGETHER TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD. BUT WHEN THE JEWS SAW THE MULTITUDES, THEY WERE FILLED WITH JEALOUSY, AND CONTRADICTED THE THINGS WHICH WERE SPOKEN BY PAUL, AND BLASPHEMED. AND PAUL AND BARNABAS SPAKE OUT BOLDLY, AND SAID, IT WAS NECESSARY THAT THE WORD OF GOD SHOULD FIRST BE SPOKEN TO YOU. SEEING YE THRUST IT FROM YOU, AND JUDGE YOURSELVES UNWORTHY OF ETERNAL LIFE, LO, WE TURN TO THE GENTILES. FOR SO HATH THE LORD COMMANDED US, SAYING, I HAVE SET THEE FOR A LIGHT OF THE GENTILES, THAT THOU SHOULDEST BE FOR SALVATION UNTO THE UTTERMOST PART OF THE EARTH. AND AS THE GENTILES HEARD THIS, THEY WERE GLAD, AND GLORIFIED THE WORD OF GOD: AND AS MANY AS WERE ORDAINED TO ETERNAL LIFE BELIEVED." **Acts 13:44-48** (ASV)

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v20. "AND ISAIAH IS VERY BOLD, AND SAITH, I WAS FOUND OF THEM THAT SOUGHT ME NOT; I BECAME MANIFEST UNTO THEM THAT ASKED NOT OF ME." (ASV)

Paul applies what is being taught in **Isaiah 65:1**. As is common in prophecy; Isaiah speaks of this future happening as though it had already taken place. That is how strong this picture was presented to him. The Israelite nation; looked for their Messiah down through the generations. When he did come they turned away, refusing to accept him because he wasn't the earthly king they expected. But those who were not looking for him (the Gentiles who had no instruction or tradition about a coming Messiah) found him and accepted him gladly.

v21. "BUT AS TO ISRAEL HE SAITH, ALL THE DAY LONG DID I SPREAD OUT MY HANDS UNTO A DISOBEDIENT AND GAINSAIYING PEOPLE." (ASV)

This verse continues with the application and interpretation for us of **Isaiah 65:2**. God had prepared and protected a people in order to bring his son into the world and keep the promise made to provide salvation for men's souls. God made repeated covenants with these people; seeking to encourage them to obey him but they were instead a disobedient and fault-finding people. They complained even before they crossed the Red Sea out of captivity down through the generations unto the day this was penned; refusing to obey God. Heaven help us if we turn out to be the same kind of people.