

Romans 3:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles?

Yes, of the Gentiles also:

Analysis

Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also. Paul anticipates an objection: if justification is by faith apart from Torah, doesn't this make God exclusively the God of Gentiles who never had Torah? Εἰ Ιoudaiōn ho theos monon (Ἐ Ιουδαίων ὁ Θεὸς μόνον, "Or is God the God of Jews only?"). Οuchi kai ethnōn (οὐχὶ καὶ ἔθνῶν, "Is he not also of Gentiles?"). Nai kai ethnōn (ναὶ καὶ ἔθνῶν, "Yes, also of Gentiles").

The argument: if salvation were through Torah-keeping, God would be tribal deity of Israel only. But the Shema confesses: "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). God's oneness demands one way of salvation for all humanity. Justification by faith alone, apart from Torah, demonstrates God's universal sovereignty and impartial justice. The very monotheism Jews confessed requires the gospel Paul preaches.

Historical Context

Judaism's strict monotheism was its distinguishing mark among pagan polytheism. Paul uses this against works-righteousness: if there is one God, there must be one way of salvation for all peoples. The scandal: Israel's unique privilege (Torah) is not the means of salvation but the testimony to the coming Savior who saves apart from Torah.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's oneness require one way of salvation—challenging both Jewish exclusivism and pluralistic inclusivism?
2. What does it mean practically that God is "also of the Gentiles"—how should this shape mission and church life?
3. How do you balance celebrating Israel's unique role in salvation history with affirming one gospel for all?

Interlinear Text

ἢ	Ἰουδαίων	ό	θεὸς	μόνον	οὐχὶ	δὲ	καὶ
Is he	of the Jews	G3588	the God	only	is he not	also	also
G2228	G2453		G2316	G3440	G3780	G1161	G2532
ἐθνῶν	ναὶ	καὶ	ἐθνῶν				
of the Gentiles	Yes	also	of the Gentiles				
G1484	G3483	G2532	G1484				

Additional Cross-References

Colossians 3:11 (Parallel theme): Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.

Zechariah 2:11 (Parallel theme): And many nations shall be joined to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people: and I will dwell in the midst of thee, and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto thee.

Ephesians 3:6 (Parallel theme): That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

Galatians 3:14 (Parallel theme): That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Jeremiah 16:19 (Parallel theme): O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit.

Romans 10:12 (Parallel theme): For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

Romans 1:16 (References God): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

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