

# Romans 9:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth.

## Analysis

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**For he will finish the work, and cut it short in righteousness: because a short work will the Lord make upon the earth**—the syntax is complex, quoting Isaiah 10:22-23 (LXX). Logon gar syntelōn kai syntemnōn (λόγον γὰρ συντελῶν καὶ συντέμνων): 'for a word/work accomplishing and cutting short.' God's judgment is swift and decisive. En dikaiosynē (ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ, 'in righteousness') emphasizes justice—God's decimation of Israel (whether Assyrian exile or AD 70 destruction) was righteous judgment on sin.

The 'short work' (suntetmēmenon, συντετμημένον) suggests sudden execution of long-threatened judgment. God's patience endures, then judgment falls swiftly. The remnant survives not by merit but by grace. This prepares for 11:5: 'at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.' God's purpose stands despite widespread unbelief—he preserves his chosen ones.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah's immediate context was Assyrian invasion (722 BC). Paul sees typological fulfillment in AD 70 when Rome destroyed Jerusalem—swift, decisive, righteous judgment on apostate Israel. Yet a remnant (the Christian church) survived. God's word accomplishes his purpose (Isaiah 55:11).

## Related Passages

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**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's 'cutting short' the work demonstrate both justice (swift judgment) and mercy (sparing the remnant)?
2. What does 'in righteousness' teach about God's judgment on unbelieving Israel?
3. How does the sudden execution of judgment after long patience display God's character?

## Interlinear Text

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λόγον γὰρ συντελῶν καὶ συντετμημένον ἐν δικαιοσυνῇ<sup>1</sup>  
the work For he will finish and a short in righteousness  
G3056 G1063 G4931 G2532 G4932 G1722 G1343

ὅτι λόγον συντετμημένον ποιήσει κύριος ἐπὶ τῆς  
because the work a short make the Lord upon G3588  
G3754 G3056 G4932 G4160 G2962 G1909

γῆς  
the earth  
G1093

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 10:23** (References Lord): For the Lord GOD of hosts shall make a consumption, even determined, in the midst of all the land.

**Revelation 19:11** (Righteousness): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

**Acts 17:31** (Righteousness): Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

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