

# Romans 9:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

## Analysis

**As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence**—Paul conflates Isaiah 8:14 and 28:16. Lithos proskommatos kai petra skandalou (λίθος προσκόμματος καὶ πέτρα σκανδάλου)—both terms denote obstacle causing downfall. God himself (egō, ἐγώ, emphatic 'I') lays the stone in Zion—it's divinely appointed. The stone is Christ, laid in Zion (Jerusalem) as both foundation and stumbling-block. To believers he's the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20); to unbelievers, a stone of judgment.

**And whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed**—pas ho pisteuōn ep' autō ou kataischynthēsetai (πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων ἐπ' αὐτῷ οὐ κατασχυνθήσεται). Isaiah 28:16's promise: the one trusting won't be put to shame/disappointed. Faith in Christ brings security, not shame. The pas (πᾶς, 'everyone/all') is crucial—Jew and Gentile alike, all who believe are saved (10:11-13). This summarizes chapter 9: election operates through faith in Christ. God's purpose stands—a remnant believes. Those who trust the stone are saved; those who stumble over it perish. Both outcomes glorify God: mercy in salvation, justice in judgment.

## Historical Context

Isaiah 28:16 was a cornerstone promise in messianic expectation. Peter preached it at Pentecost (Acts 4:11). The early church saw Christ as the stone the builders

rejected who became chief cornerstone (Psalm 118:22). The stone is stumbling or salvation depending on one's response—a theme permeating Scripture.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

## Study Questions

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1. How does Christ function as both foundation-stone (for believers) and stumbling-stone (for unbelievers)?
2. What does 'shall not be ashamed' promise to those who trust Christ despite opposition or persecution?
3. How does the 'whosoever believeth' (pas ho pisteuōn) reconcile God's sovereignty in election with universal gospel invitation?

## Interlinear Text

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καθὼς	γέγραπται	'Ιδού,	τίθημι	ἐν	Σιὼν	λίθον
<b>As</b>	<b>it is written</b>	<b>Behold</b>	<b>I lay</b>	<b>in</b>	<b>Sion</b>	<b>a stumblingstone</b>
G2531	G1125	G2400	G5087	G1722	G4622	G3037

προσκόμματος	καὶ	πέτραν	σκανδάλου	καὶ	πᾶς	ὁ
G4348		<b>and</b>	<b>rock</b>		<b>whosoever</b>	G3588
	G2532	G4073		G4625	G2532	G3956

πιστεύων	ἐπ'	αὐτῷ	οὐ	καταισχυνθήσεται	
<b>believeth</b>	<b>on</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>not</b>	<b>be ashamed</b>	
G4100	G1909	G846	G3756	G2617	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 28:16** (Faith): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

**Romans 10:11** (Faith): For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

**Psalm 118:22** (Parallel theme): The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

**Romans 5:5** (Parallel theme): And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

**Isaiah 45:17** (Parallel theme): But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.

**Psalm 25:20** (Faith): O keep my soul, and deliver me: let me not be ashamed; for I put my trust in thee.

**1 John 2:28** (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

**Philippians 1:20** (Parallel theme): According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

**Isaiah 54:4** (Parallel theme): Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

**Matthew 21:42** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?