

Romans 3:9-19

By Wild Branch Ministries

"What then? Are we better than they? No, in no way: for we have before proved both Jews and Greeks, that they are ALL under sin; as it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are ALL gone out of the way, they are TOGETHER become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips; whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; destruction and misery are in their ways; and the way of peace have they not known. There is no fear of God before their eyes. Now we know that whatever things the law saith, it saith to them who are UNDER THE LAW, that EVERY mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God."

- Romans 3:9-19

Many times I have heard these verses used to show the condition of Israel, as they are under the law and we (the church) are under grace. But this series of verses begins by stating that ALL are under sin, Jew and Gentile. All of these verses point to the condition of ALL of mankind, and that when the law speaks it speaks to EVERY mouth, and that ALL the world is guilty before Adonai. The law tells us that we are all guilty before Adonai. The law in verse 20 teaches us what is right and wrong. We all are guilty of breaking the law, so we are ALL doomed unless Adonai provides another way to be redeemed. When we are placed under grace by faith, the law still teaches us what is right and wrong. That is its designed function and its lawful use (1 Timothy 1:8). To be under the law is to be without grace and therefore condemned by the law, and therefore guilty. There is no teaching here that law was for Old Testament Jews or that they were redeemed by it. Remember that when Sha'ul (Paul) taught, the Bereans checked out everything he spoke by searching the Old Testament that these things were so. There was no New Testament to verify his words.

We will continue to look at Romans chapter 3 verse 19 along with verses 20-31 in the following studies.