

Romans 10

Read Romans 10:1-13:

Paul wanted to become the ultimate Jew, before he was saved. He was very proud of his heritage. He eventually found out that he was sincere, but somewhat sincerely wrong. Similarly, he now wants to alert his colleagues that they are running the wrong way, like Forrest Gump. We are frequently wrong, but seldom in doubt.

⁴ although I myself could boast as having confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he is confident in the flesh, I have more reason: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, these things I have counted as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them mere rubbish, so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ if somehow I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. (Philippians 3)

Paul is pointing out that Jews tend to excel in whatever their interests are in.

How to explain high Jewish achievement: The role of intelligence and values

Author links open overlay panel[Richard Lynn](#)^a, [Satoshi Kanazawa](#)^b

Throughout the 20th century, Jews have been greatly over-represented in western nations among intellectual elites, in the universities, and among the higher socio-economic classes. The two principal theories that have been advanced to explain this are that Jews have high intelligence and, alternatively, that they have cultural values that promote success. We review the evidence and present new data suggesting that high intelligence is the more important of these two factors.

Following emancipation in the 19th century, the Jews have done remarkably well in western nations. Two main theories have been advanced to explain this. These are that Jews have high intelligence and that they have cultural values that promote achievement. Our purpose in this paper is to review these theories and present new data bearing on them.

Jews have been greatly over-represented among intellectual elites, in the professions, the universities, among business leaders and the very rich in 20th century. Weyl and Possony (1963, p. 142) calculated that in the period 1901–1962 16% of Nobel prize-winners for science were Jewish. They estimated the world population of Jews in 1938 at 18 million and the world population of European gentiles at 718 million, and calculated that Jews were over-represented by a factor of approximately 6.6. Jews have been about half of the world's top rated chess grandmasters between 1851 and 2000 (Rubinstein, 2004) and of the champion American bridge players and theoreticians (Storfer, 1990).

In the 20th century, Jews have been greatly over-represented in a number of countries among intellectual elites and in the higher socio-economic status occupations. In Austria in the years between the two World Wars Jews were approximately 3.5% of the population but were 27.3% of university professors (Fraenkel, 1967). In Germany between 1918 and 1933 Jews were 0.78% of the population but were 16% of the doctors, 15% of the dentists, 25% of the lawyers, 50% of the theatre directors and occupied 80% of the leading positions in the Berlin stock exchange (Gordon, 1984, Slezkine, 2004). In Poland in 1931 Jews were 10.2% of the population but were 56% of the doctors in private practice, 33% of the lawyers, and 24% of the pharmacists (Slezkine, 2004). In Russia during the period 1917–1939 Jews were approximately 1.8% of the population, while Jews were 9% of the officers in military academies, 15% of the university graduates, 11% of the doctors and 14% of the university professors (Slezkine, 2004).

In Britain, the numbers of Jews and gentiles possessing large wealth in the period from 1809–1939 have been examined from probate returns on death by Rubinstein (2000). He has found 199 such individuals of whom 28 were Jews (14.1%). The average number of Jews in the population during this period was approximately 0.4%, so Jews were 28.4 times over-represented among the very wealthy. Prais and Schmool (1975) calculated that 10% of Jews and 4% of gentiles were in the higher professions in 1961, and hence Jews were over-represented by a factor of 2.5. In a later study, Tropp (1991) examined the numbers and proportions of Jews in eleven of the major professions around 1985. He found that the percentage of Jews ranged from 1.3% among chartered surveyors to 7.8 among ophthalmic opticians. At this time there were approximately 322,000 Jews in the United Kingdom in the total population of 56,379,000 (the figure in the 1981 census). Thus, in 1985 Jews were approximately 0.6% of the population. Even among chartered surveyors Jews were over-represented by a factor of 2.2, while among ophthalmic opticians Jews were over-represented by a factor of 13.0.

Finally, the largest population of Jews outside Israel in the 20th century has been in the United States and here also Jews have done well. As early as 1908 Jews began to outperform gentiles in the entrance tests for universities that were first constructed by the College Entrance Examination Board in 1899. Increasing numbers were gaining admission to the Ivy League colleges. In 1908 the percentages of Jews in all colleges and at Harvard were 7% and 6%, respectively, and by 1919 this had increased to 20% of the students at Harvard and about the same figure at Yale, Brown and Pennsylvania, while at Columbia 40% of the students were Jewish (Slezkine, 2004).

From 1957 through 1990 the average annual earnings of Jewish men were about 130% of those of white gentiles (in 1990 \$36,700 for Jews and \$28,080 for white gentiles) (Chiswick, 1985, Kosmin and Lachman, 1993). By the 1990s Jews were hugely over-represented among the very wealthy, when they comprised more than a quarter of the people on the Forbes Magazine list of the richest four hundred Americans, 45% of the top 40 richest Americans, and one-third of all American multimillionaires (Silbiger, 2000).

It has been found that Jews are considerably over-represented among the eminent in the United States. Weyl (1966) calculated that Jews were over-represented by a factor of 4.48 in seven reference books of the eminent (e.g. *Who's Who in America*, *American Men and Women of Science*, *Who's Who in Finance and Industry*, etc.). In an updated analysis of *Who's Who in America* for the years 1994–5, McDermott (2002) has calculated that Jews were over-represented by a factor of 16.62.

Two principal theories have been advanced to explain the high achievements of Jews. These are (1) that Jews have high intelligence and (2) that they have cultural values that promote success.

All said, a huge part of antisemitism is jealousy and envy.

And now says the Lord, who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel might be gathered to Him (For I am honored in the sight of the Lord, And My God is My strength), 'He says, "It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the protected ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations (Isaiah 9)

More importantly, how does all of this excellence factor into their relationship to God? Close, but no cigar. They have many cultural and religious practices that are all *about God*. Like many commentaries and oral traditions; they are powerless as they stray from God's verbatim word. The Greek New Testament word for *sin* is an archery term referring to *missing the mark*. They repetitiously practice many

religious and historic ceremonies and national memorials. Is this success; or is it even hitting the mark? They fell in love with being special and holy and godly...more than they cherished actually knowing God personally through his word.



³⁹ You examine the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me; ⁴⁰ and yet you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life. (John 5:39-40)

¹³ “But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you shut the kingdom of heaven in front of people; for you do not enter it yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.” ¹⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites, because you travel around on sea and land to make one proselyte; and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as yourselves.

¹⁶ “Woe to you, blind guides, who say, ‘Whoever swears by the temple, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the gold of the temple is obligated.’ ¹⁷ You fools and blind men! Which is more important, the gold or the temple that sanctified the gold? ¹⁸ And you say, ‘Whoever swears by the altar, that is nothing; but whoever swears by the offering that is on it is obligated.’ ¹⁹ You blind men, which is more important, the offering or the altar that sanctifies the offering? ²⁰ Therefore, the one who swears by the altar, swears both by the altar and by everything on it. ²¹ And the one who swears by the temple, swears both by the temple and by Him

who dwells in it. ²² And the one who swears by heaven, swears both by the throne of God and by Him who sits upon it. ²³ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier provisions of the Law: justice and mercy and faithfulness; but these are the things you should have done without neglecting the others. ²⁴ You blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel! ²⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of robbery and self-indulgence. ²⁶ You blind Pharisee, first clean the inside of the cup and of the dish, so that the outside of it may also become clean. ²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness. ²⁸ So you too, outwardly appear righteous to people, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. ²⁹ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you build the tombs for the prophets and decorate the monuments of the righteous, ³⁰ and you say, ‘If we had been living in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partners with them in shedding the blood of the prophets.’ ³¹ So you testify against yourselves, that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets. ³² Fill up, then, the measure of the guilt of your fathers. ³³ You snakes, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape the sentence of hell? (Matthew 23)

There is a common issue with many gifted people. They think that they are more on the ball, so they cannot be told anything. They may even miss the point of the entire exercise to get lost in some minutiae. Many Cal Tech students are brilliant; but they cannot change a tire or a battery on a car. They can waste all of their time on nothing. They create their own reality, because only they understand it.

Do not rebuke a scoffer, or he will hate you; Rebuke a wise person and he will love you. ⁹ Give instruction to a wise person and he will become still wiser; Teach a righteous person and he will increase his insight. ¹⁰ The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. ¹¹ For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. ¹² If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you alone will suffer from it. (Prov. 9)

When you are proud of yourself it is hard to be open to correction. Instead, they created an oral law and their own writings that were commentaries about scripture. They promoted their footnotes over what God had told to Abraham and Moses and the prophets. They missed a lot of context and convoluted the scriptures with their Mishna and Midrash.

“Now, Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I am teaching you to perform, so that you will live and go in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. ² You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, so that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I am commanding you. (Deuteronomy 4)

He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother’; and, ‘The one who speaks evil of father or mother, is certainly to be put to death’; ¹¹ but you say, ‘If a person says to his father or his mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is, given to God),’ ¹² you no longer allow him to do anything for his father or his mother; ¹³ thereby invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.” (Mark 7)

The point here is that the scriptures are called a sword because they have piercing truths that are not complimentary. If you are trying to show off or be special, you have missed the results of a biblical self-assessment. God is the one who is special and he is loving and he is good.

Jesus is for those who cannot get to God by their own good works. If a man still thinks that he can be holy on his own; he is unlikely to respond to Jesus.

Read Romans 10:14-21: Paul is the preacher of the Good News. To consider Jesus good news, you need a correct assessment of your life.

“There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. ¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” ¹³ “Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit”; “The poison of asps is under their lips”; ¹⁴ “Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.” ¹⁵ “Their feet are swift to shed blood; ¹⁶ Destruction and misery are in their ways; ¹⁷ And the way of peace they have not known.” ¹⁸ “There is no fear of God before their eyes.” ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ,

to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. (Romans 3)

God associated himself with a tough bunch. The children of Abraham were tough to lead consistently. Most of Paul's writings were corrective.