

The Book of Romans

Introduction

Author—Rabbi Saul (Paul)

Place and Date—written from **Corinth** (16:1), at the close of **Paul's 3rd** missionary journey (Acts 20:3), just before his return to **Jerusalem** with an **offering** for poor believers there

Written - AD 57 or 58

Purposes/occasion for the letter—

1. to announce his plans to **visit Rome** after his return to Jerusalem (they were on his heart)
2. to give a complete and detailed **statement/teaching** with regard to his **gospel message**— an explanation of **God's plans** for **salvation** and the **means** by which we as **sinners (Jews and Gentiles)**, obtain **righteousness**
3. to head off **tensions** among **Jewish** and **Gentile believers**:
 - a) on one hand, emphasizing the *historical* and *chronological* **priority** of the **Jews**
 - b) on the other hand, proclaiming that there is only **one God**, of both **Jews and Gentiles**, and that *both* groups **need God's righteousness**

Key Theme and Contents—the **gospel message** of **righteousness by faith**

1. the **need** for **God's righteousness (universality of sin)**
2. the **means** of obtaining **God's righteousness (by faith)**
3. **walking** in **righteousness**, the *place* and *purposes* of the **Law**, walking in the **Spirit**
4. the **present** and **future** status of **Israel**
5. **practicing** **righteousness**, **righteousness applied**, **spiritual gifts**, **relationships** towards **society** and **government**,

I. **Paul's Introduction** to his **Letter** (1:1-17)

A. His *Initial* **Greetings** (1:1-7)

1 Paul, a bond-servant of Jesus the Messiah, called as an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

² which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, ³ concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh,

⁴ who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus the Messiah our Lord,

⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for His name's sake,

⁶ among whom you also are the called of Jesus the Messiah;

⁷ to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

Summary Outline

I. Paul's Introduction to his Letter

A. His Initial Greetings (1:1-7)

1. Introducing Himself (1:1)

- a. As a Bond-servant of Messiah (1:1a)
- b. As an Apostle called by God (1:1b)
- c. As one "Separated" for the gospel of God (1:1c)

2. Identifying His Gospel Message (1:2-6)

- a. A Message promised in the holy Scriptures (1:2)
- b. A Message concerning God's Son (1:3-6)

1) **Who** was a descendant of David (1:3)

2) **Who** was declared the Son of God (1:4)

a) by the *power* of His resurrection (1:4a)

b) by the *proclamation* of the Holy Spirit (1:4b)

3) **Who** gave Paul (and others) grace, and a calling as an apostle (1:5-6)

a) a *calling* to bring the Gentiles to the faith (1:5)

- b) a *calling* that they (believers at **Romans**) have **received** of **Messiah** (1:6)

3. *Imparting* Warm Greetings (1:7)

- a. To the “**Beloved of God**” in Rome (1:7a)
- b. To those called as “**Saints**” (1:7b)
- c. Giving a Salutation from the **Father** and the **Son** (1:7c)

Personal Application Our **Calling**, Our **Message**, Our **Mission**

1. As **believers**, *we too* (like **Paul**) have been called by **God** (1:1)

“...among whom you also are the called of **Jesus the Messiah**;”

God is faithful,
through whom you were called into **fellowship** with **His Son**,
Jesus the Messiah our Lord. (I Corinthians 1:9)

But we should always give **thanks to God** for you, **brethren**
beloved by the **Lord**, because **God** has *chosen you* from the **beginning**
for **salvation** through **sanctification** by the **Spirit** and faith in the **truth**.

It was for this **He called you** through our **gospel**, that you may gain
the **glory** of our **Lord Jesus the Messiah**. (II Thessalonians 2:13-14)

2. As **believers**, *we too* have been “**set apart**” for the message and **purposes** of the gospel of God (1:1c)

- a. A *Gospel* **promised** beforehand in the Holy Scriptures (1:2)

Then beginning with **Moses** and with **all** the **prophets**,
He (Jesus) explained to them the things concerning Himself
in all the Scriptures. (Luke 24:27)

- b. A *Gospel* message that proclaims (Jesus) the Son of God (1:3a)

Now to **Him** who is able to **establish you** according to my gospel
and the **preaching** of Jesus the Messiah..(Romans 16:25a)

For we do **not preach** ourselves but Messiah Jesus as Lord,
and **ourselves** as your **bond-servants** for **Jesus’ sake**. (II Corinthians 4:5)

- c. A *Gospel* that **declares** Jesus as the “Son of David,” the Messianic King (1:3)

The **record** of the **genealogy** of **Jesus the Messiah**,
the **son of David**, the son of **Abraham**;..(Matthew 1:1)

The **angel** said to her (**Mary**),..
“**He (Jesus)** will be **great** and will be called the **Son** of the **Most High**;
and the **Lord God** will give **Him** the **throne** of **His father David**;
and **He** will **reign** over the **house of Jacob** forever,
and **His kingdom** will have **no end**.” (Luke 1:30a, 32-33)

- d. A **Gospel** that **declares Jesus** the **Son of God** because of the **Power** of
His Resurrection (1:4a)

Now **I (Paul)** make known to you, brethren, the **gospel**
which **I preached** to you, which also you **received**,
in which also **you stand**, by which **you are saved**,..

For **I delivered** to you as of first importance what I also received,
that **Messiah died** for **our sins** according to the **Scriptures**,
and that **He was buried**, and that **He was raised** on the **third day**
according to the **Scriptures**, (I Corinthians 15:1-2a, 3-4)

- e. A **Gospel proclaimed** through the **Power** and **Witness** of the **Holy Spirit**
(1:4b)

“When the **Helper** comes, whom **I will send** to you from the **Father**,
that is the **Spirit of truth** who proceeds from the **Father**,
He will testify about **Me**, (John 15:26)

And when **I (Paul)** came to you, brethren,
I did not come with **superiority** of **speech** or of **wisdom**,
proclaiming to you the **testimony of God**.

For I determined to know nothing among you
except **Jesus the Messiah**, and **Him crucified**..
and **my message** and **my preaching** were **not** in **persuasive words**
of **wisdom**, but in demonstration of the **Spirit** and of **power**,
so that your **faith** would not rest on the **wisdom of men**,
but on the **power of God**. (I Corinthians 2:1-2, 4-5)

3. As **believers**, *we too* have received **grace**, and a “**calling**” to lead
others to the “**obedience of faith**” in **Jesus our Lord**, and **Messiah** (1:5)

Therefore **go** and **make disciples** of **all nations**, **baptizing them**
in the **name** of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**,
and **teaching them to obey** everything **I have commanded you**.
And surely **I am with you** always, to the very **end of the age**.”
(Matthew 28:19-20)