

# **Romans**

**The Righteousness of God  
proven through Messiah,  
King Jesus**

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# Romans

- Romans 1:1-7
- Romans 15:7



# Romans

## Next 2 weeks:

- I. This week – the issue of the greater Story Paul must tackle
  - II. Next week – the issue exacerbated by the environment specifically in Rome
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# Romans

## Key points to the Overall Narrative of God

- I. Redemption started in Genesis 12 with Abraham
  
  - II. Goal was to build a Nation thru Abraham – ISRAEL – that God would:
    - a) Build & bless as a Holy Nation connected to Himself
    - b) Then utilize that Nation to play a KEY ROLE to put the world to rights again
  
  - III. God then gave them the Priesthood, the Temple, the Holy Land, & maybe most importantly the Torah
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# Romans

## Key points to the Overall Narrative of God

- IV. But it just never seemed to work
  - V. So God predicted He would send a Messiah – a King to rule Israel & put things to rights on Israel's behalf
  - VI. Finally He sent His own Son, an Israelite, to be Israel on Israel's behalf to save the world & to put life back together again
  - VII. And now Israel, for the most part, is not acknowledging or accepting His Messiah
  - VIII. On top of that Gentiles (read pagans that do not follow Torah) are coming to belief in this Messiah in droves
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# Romans

Problem # 1: God's trustworthiness is completely tied to Israel

- Romans 1:1
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# Romans

## At the time of this writing:

- I. The Jews have still not been fully restored from their exile in Babylon being under Roman rule...when will God address this?
- II. Goal is responsible for setting the World aright thru Israel & yet the pagans rule
- III. And most importantly very few Jews believe in Jesus as Messiah
- IV. On top of that the Jews got kicked out of Rome so the churches there were Gentile converts...i.e. pagan converts that didn't adhere to Torah...then they get let back in as "add-ons"

# Romans

*If God has planned and acted to save His people Israel and thru His people the World, but Israel is not participating in that salvation, then how on earth can this God be said to be righteous?*

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# Romans

## Problem # 2: God has promised these things in Scripture

- Romans 1:2
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# Romans

**Problem # 1: God's trustworthiness is completely tied to Israel**

**Problem # 2: God has promised these things in Scripture**

**Problem # 3: Paul's Apostleship (his Divine calling) is tied to non-Jewish people**

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# Romans

## So what then is Paul's answer?

- Romans 1:3-6

Somehow the Messiah event proves God has been faithful both to what:

- a) He promised in Scripture He would do
  - b) Specifically to Israel at large
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# Romans

**Main theme of the 1<sup>st</sup> 11 chapters:**  
(before they will listen to Paul implore them to live well in harmony together in chapters 12-16)

***How can this message about Jesus be  
the message about the saving  
faithfulness of Israel's God?  
How does Jesus prove God is faithful?***

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# Romans

## God is on trial!

- a) Somehow Paul must show how Jesus PROVES God is righteous & has been faithful to His Story & to Israel
  - b) And that the incorporation of the Gentiles is a MUST to His being seen as faithful
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# Romans

## Theme:

*God's Gospel culminating in Messiah  
unveils God's righteousness*

*Therefore...*

*Live well together in love & unity*

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# Romans

## Expectations of Messiah:

- I. To rebuild or cleanse the Temple
  - II. To defeat the pagans
  - III. To rescue Israel
  - IV. And finally to bring God's justice to the world
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# Romans

## And what did Jesus do?

- I. He died – i.e. read failure to a Jew
  - II. He died at the hands of the very pagans they thought He should have defeated
  - III. He seemingly attacked the Temple
  - IV. Israel does not look rescued
  - V. And the world is in tatters...STILL!
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# Romans

## Paul will vindicate God thru Romans by redefining:

- I. Who His people REALLY are
  - II. What if any role the Torah plays
  - III. What role Israel plays
  - IV. How the Story should be interpreted
  - V. How the inclusion of the Gentiles fits into the intended multi-faceted people of God
  - VI. And primarily how Jesus above all PROVES God is righteous (& in particular His resurrection)
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# Romans

## Forced Paul to address a ton of questions:

- I. What then had God actually promised Israel that He would be faithful to?
  - II. Did God change His mind about Israel & if so HOW is He still faithful then?
  - III. If the Jews are not restored in mass then what does this mean?
  - IV. If only a small portion (read remnant) of Jews have come to believe in Jesus as Messiah is this consistent with His promises?
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# Romans

## Forced Paul to address a ton of questions:

- V. If God promised life by following Torah & pagans don't follow it but follow Jesus & appear to be getting all the blessings then what is the point of Torah?
  
  - VI. What actually WAS promised in the Old Testament to determine IF God has been faithful to what He said & thus righteous?
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# Romans

*II Cor. 1:20 "For as many as are the promises of God, in Him (Jesus) they are yes!"*

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