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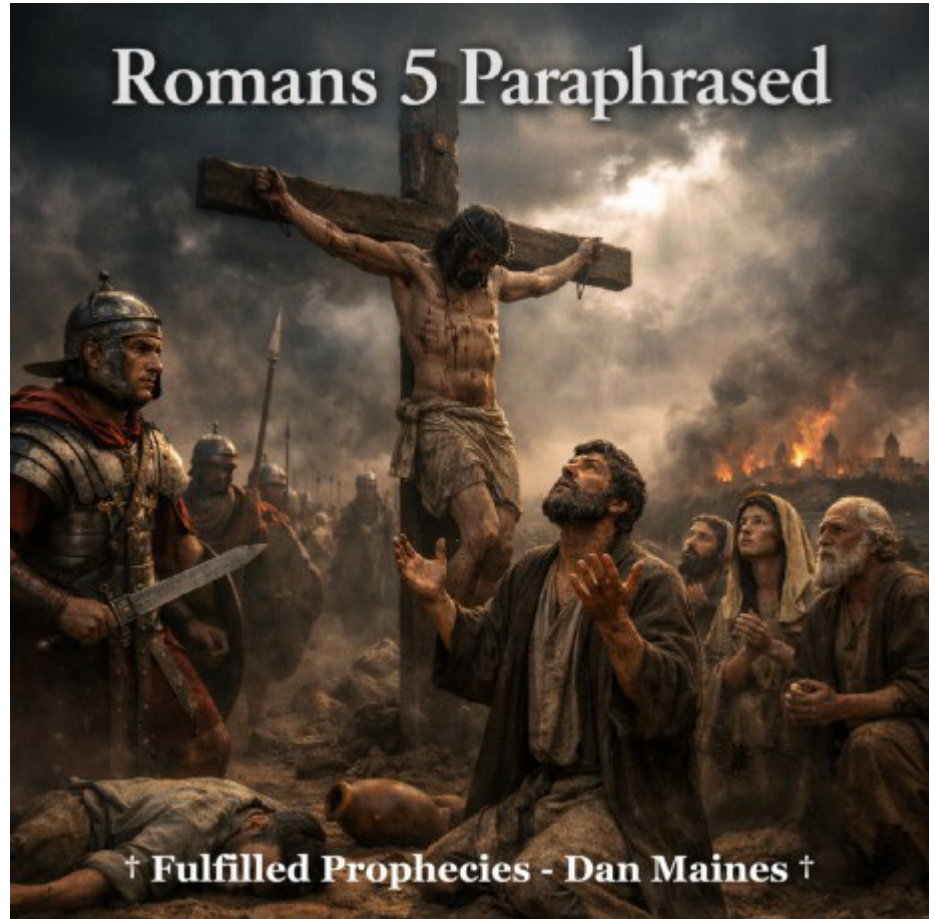
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Romans 5 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Romans 5 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Paul is showing what it means now that we've been made right with God, not by law, but through faith in Christ

† This chapter explains peace with God, the purpose of suffering, and how Christ reversed what came through Adam

† From the fulfilled perspective, this is about the transition from the old covenant world into the new covenant life that was fully established in their generation

Romans 5:1

Since we've been declared right with God through faith, we now have peace with Him through our Lord Jesus Christ

† Peace with God wasn't future, it was a present reality for them through Christ (Isaiah 57:19)

† This peace replaced the separation that existed under the law system (Ephesians 2:14-16)

† The covenant barrier was being removed, leading to full reconciliation

Romans 5:2

Through Him we've also gained access by faith into this grace we now stand in, and we celebrate in hope of God's glory

† Access to God was no longer limited to priests and temple systems (Hebrews 10:19-22)

† Standing in grace shows a new covenant position, not a temporary condition

† The hope of glory was about what was about to be revealed, not something thousands of years away (Colossians 1:27)

Romans 5:3

And not only that, we also rejoice in our sufferings, knowing suffering produces endurance

† Their suffering was tied to the transition period between covenants (Matthew 24:9)

† Endurance was necessary as they lived through the final days of the old system

† This wasn't random suffering, it had purpose tied to fulfillment

Romans 5:4

Endurance builds character, and character builds hope

† Their tested faith proved the reality of the new covenant life forming in them (James 1:2-4)

† This hope was growing stronger as fulfillment approached

† It wasn't uncertain, it was grounded in what Christ had already accomplished

Romans 5:5

And this hope doesn't disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us

† The Spirit confirmed that the promises were being fulfilled (Joel 2:28)

† God's love was no longer distant, it was internal and personal

† This marked the shift from external law to internal transformation

Romans 5:6

While we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly

† The timing was precise, it happened exactly when prophesied (Daniel 9:26-27)

† This wasn't random history, it was fulfillment

† Christ acted when humanity couldn't fix itself

Romans 5:7

It's rare for someone to die for a righteous person, though maybe for a good person someone might dare to die

† Paul highlights how unusual sacrificial love is among men

† Human love has limits

† This sets up the contrast with Christ's love

Romans 5:8

But God shows His love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us

† Christ didn't wait for righteousness, He acted in the middle of sin

† This proves salvation isn't earned

† God's love initiated everything (1 John 4:10)

Romans 5:9

Since we've now been justified by His blood, we'll be saved from wrath through Him

† The wrath was not future global destruction, it was the coming judgment on Jerusalem (Matthew 23:36)

- † They were being saved from that covenantal wrath
- † Justification guaranteed deliverance

Romans 5:10

If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through His Son's death, much more now that we're reconciled we'll be saved by His life

- † Reconciliation already happened through His death
- † His life guarantees ongoing salvation and completion
- † This points to the full establishment of the new covenant life

Romans 5:11

And not only this, but we also celebrate in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we've now received reconciliation

- † Reconciliation wasn't partial, it was complete
- † Their joy was based on a finished work
- † This was the end of separation between God and His people

Romans 5:12

Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned

- † Adam introduced sin and death into humanity (Genesis 3)
- † Death here is spiritual separation, not just physical death
- † This sets the stage for Christ reversing it

Romans 5:13

Sin was in the world before the law, but sin isn't counted when there is no law

- † Sin existed before Moses, but law made it accountable
- † The law defined and exposed sin (Romans 3:20)
- † This shows the role of the law in the old covenant

Romans 5:14

Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who didn't sin like Adam, who is a pattern of the One to come

- † Death ruled over all humanity
- † Adam is a type of Christ, but in contrast

† This prepares the comparison between the two

Romans 5:15

But the gift isn't like the offense, for if many died through one man's failure, much more did God's grace overflow through one man, Jesus Christ

† Adam brought death, Christ brought grace

† The gift is greater than the fall

† Grace doesn't just match sin, it overcomes it completely

Romans 5:16

The gift isn't like what came through the one who sinned, for judgment came from one offense resulting in condemnation, but the gift came from many offenses resulting in justification

† One sin brought condemnation

† Christ dealt with many sins and brought justification

† This shows the superiority of Christ's work

Romans 5:17

If by one man's offense death ruled through that one, much more those who receive grace and righteousness will reign in life through Jesus Christ

† Believers now reign in life, not just survive

† This is present reality, not future

† Life has replaced death as the ruling power

Romans 5:18

So then, through one offense came condemnation to all men, and through one act of righteousness came justification of life to all men

† Adam affected all, Christ provides life to all who receive Him

† This is about covenant representation

† Christ's act reverses Adam's effect

Romans 5:19

Through one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so through one man's obedience many will be made righteous

- † Adam's failure impacted humanity
- † Christ's obedience restores righteousness
- † This is the foundation of the gospel

Romans 5:20

The law came in so the offense would increase, but where sin increased, grace increased even more

- † The law exposed sin more clearly
- † Grace didn't just meet sin, it overwhelmed it
- † This shows the purpose of the law was temporary

Romans 5:21

So that just as sin ruled in death, grace would rule through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord

- † Sin's reign has ended
- † Grace now reigns through Christ
- † Eternal life is the present covenant reality for believers

Historical References

- † Justin Martyr taught that Christ reversed Adam's fall and brought life where death ruled
- † Irenaeus wrote that Christ restored what Adam lost through obedience
- † Eusebius recorded the fulfillment of these things in the fall of Jerusalem
- † Clement of Alexandria emphasized the shift from law to grace as a completed reality

How It Applies To Us Today

- † We're not waiting for peace with God, we already have it
- † We're not under wrath, that judgment already passed
- † We're living in grace, not law
- † We're in Christ, not Adam
- † We stand in a finished covenant reality

Q & A Appendix

Q: Is the wrath in this chapter still future?

A: No, it referred to that generation's judgment (Matthew 23:36; 1 Thessalonians 2:16)

Q: What kind of death came through Adam?

A: Spiritual death, separation from God (Genesis 2:17; Ephesians 2:1)

Q: Are we still under Adam today?

A: No, believers are in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:22)

Q: Are we waiting for peace with God?

A: No, we already have peace through Christ (Romans 5:1)

Q: Do we reign in life now?

A: Yes, through Christ right now (Revelation 1:6)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Romans 5

† Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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