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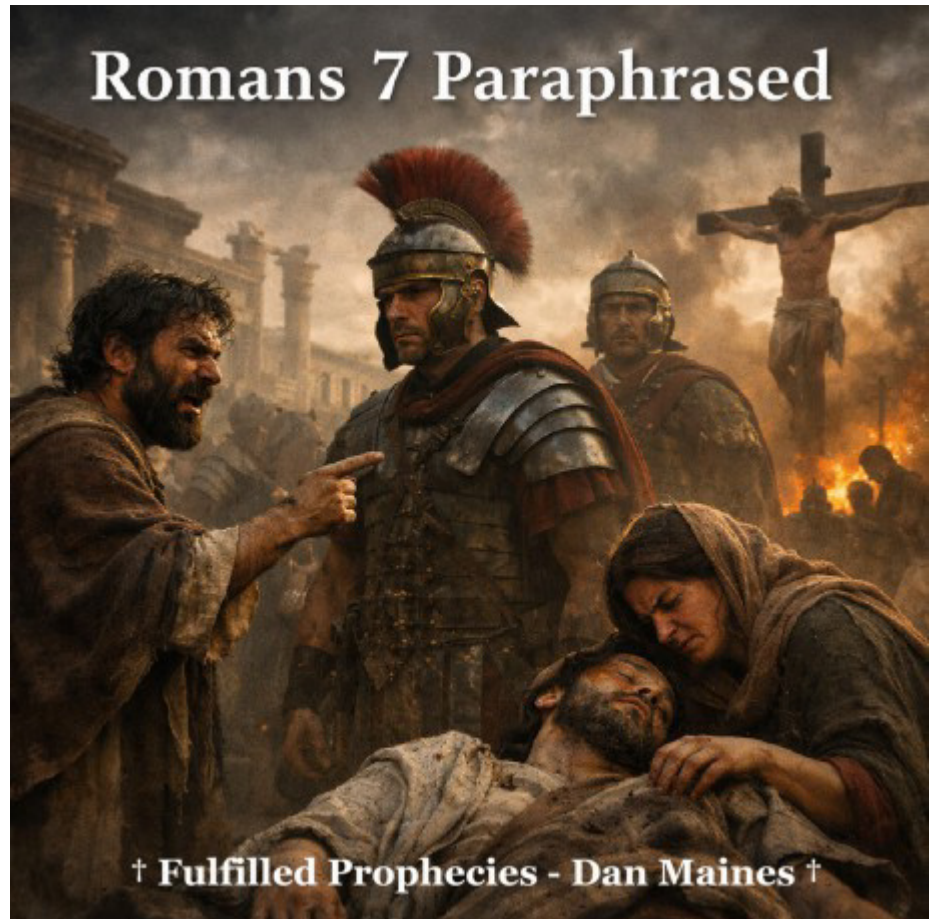
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Romans 7 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Romans 7 Paraphrased

Introduction

- † This chapter explains how the law once ruled over God's people but that authority ended through Christ (Romans 10:4)
- † Paul uses marriage to show how death ends legal obligation, pointing to covenant transition (Romans 6:9)
- † From the fulfilled perspective, this is about Israel being released from the old covenant, not a believer trapped in sin today (Hebrews 8:13)

Romans 7:1

Don't you understand, brothers, I'm speaking to those who know the law, that the law only has authority over someone while they are alive

† The law's authority was limited to a living covenant relationship (Galatians 3:23)

† Death ends legal obligation, setting up the coming analogy (Romans 6:7)

† This points to covenant death, not individual struggle (Colossians 2:14)

Romans 7:2

A married woman is bound to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies, she is released from that law

† Marriage law is used to illustrate covenant binding (Jeremiah 31:32)

† Death breaks the legal bond completely (Romans 6:9)

† This prepares the transition from old covenant to new (Hebrews 7:12)

Romans 7:3

So if she joins another man while her husband is alive, she is called an adulteress, but if her husband dies, she is free from that law

† Remaining under the old while joining the new would be spiritual adultery (Galatians 5:4)

† Only death allows a lawful transition (Romans 6:6)

† This shows why the old covenant had to end first (Hebrews 8:13)

Romans 7:4

So, my brothers, you also were made to die to the law through the body of Christ so that you could belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead, so that we would bear fruit for God

† Christ's death ended their obligation to the law (Colossians 2:14)

† This is covenant transfer, not personal law-keeping reform (Romans 6:14)

† Bearing fruit comes from union with Christ, not law (John 15:5)

Romans 7:5

While we were in the flesh, sinful desires were stirred up by the law, producing fruit that led to death

† The law exposed sin but also provoked it (1 Corinthians 15:56)

† The result of the law system was condemnation (2 Corinthians 3:7)

† This describes life under the old covenant (Galatians 4:3)

Romans 7:6

But now we've been released from the law, having died to what held us, so we serve in newness of spirit and not in oldness of the letter

† Release from the law is complete, not partial (Romans 6:14)

† The new covenant is Spirit-based, not written code (2 Corinthians 3:6)

† This is fulfilled reality, not future hope (Hebrews 10:9)

Romans 7:7

What should we say then, is the law sin? No, never. But I wouldn't have known sin except through the law, for I wouldn't have known coveting unless the law said not to covet

† The law revealed sin but wasn't itself sinful (Romans 3:20)

† It defined transgression clearly (Galatians 3:19)

† Without the law, sin isn't counted the same way (Romans 5:13)

Romans 7:8

But sin, taking opportunity through the commandment, produced every kind of coveting in me, for apart from the law sin is dead

† Sin used the law as a trigger (1 Corinthians 15:56)

† The law gave sin its power (Romans 5:20)

† This shows the weakness of the law system (Hebrews 7:18)

Romans 7:9

I was once alive apart from the law, but when the commandment came, sin came alive and I died

† Awareness of law brought accountability (Romans 4:15)

† Death here is covenantal condemnation (2 Corinthians 3:7)

† This reflects Israel under the law, not a personal timeline (Galatians 4:4)

Romans 7:10

The commandment that was meant for life ended up bringing death

† The law promised life for obedience (Leviticus 18:5)

† But failure turned it into death (Galatians 3:10)

† This exposes the inability of the flesh (Romans 8:3)

Romans 7:11

Sin took advantage of the commandment, deceived me, and killed me through it

† Sin manipulates the law to condemn (Hebrews 3:13)

† The law becomes an instrument of death because of sin (2 Corinthians 3:7)

† This highlights the need for Christ (Romans 8:2)

Romans 7:12

So the law is holy, and the commandment is holy, righteous, and good

† The problem was never the law itself (Psalm 19:7)

† The issue was human weakness (Romans 8:3)

† The law served its purpose perfectly (Galatians 3:24)

Romans 7:13

Did what is good become death to me? No, it was sin producing death through what is good so that sin would be shown as sinful

† The law exposes sin fully (Romans 3:20)

† Sin is revealed as utterly sinful (Romans 5:20)

† This prepares the need for grace (Galatians 3:22)

Romans 7:14

We know the law is spiritual, but I am fleshly, sold under sin

† The law came from God but man was weak (Romans 8:3)

† This reflects humanity under the old covenant (Galatians 4:3)

† This is not describing the new covenant believer (Romans 6:18)

Romans 7:15

I don't understand what I'm doing, I practice what I hate and don't do what I want

† This is the struggle under law, not under grace (Galatians 5:17)

† The law couldn't produce obedience (Hebrews 7:19)

† This describes bondage, not freedom (Romans 6:20)

Romans 7:16

If I do what I don't want, I agree that the law is good

† The conscience affirms the law (Romans 2:15)

† The failure lies in the flesh, not the law (Romans 8:3)

† This shows internal conflict under law (Galatians 5:17)

Romans 7:17

So now it's no longer I doing it, but sin living in me

† Sin dominated those under the law (Romans 6:12)

† The law couldn't free them (Hebrews 7:19)

† This highlights the need for deliverance (Romans 8:2)

Romans 7:18

I know nothing good lives in me, that is in my flesh, I have the desire to do good but not the ability

† The flesh is powerless to fulfill the law (Romans 8:8)

† Desire alone isn't enough (Galatians 3:3)

† This is the failure of self-effort (Philippians 3:9)

Romans 7:19

I don't do the good I want, but I keep doing the evil I don't want

† Repetition shows bondage (Romans 6:16)

† The law couldn't break this cycle (Hebrews 10:1)

† This is life before freedom in Christ (Romans 6:20)

Romans 7:20

If I'm doing what I don't want, it's no longer I, but sin living in me

† Sin ruled under the law (Romans 6:14)

† Identity was tied to sin under the old system (Galatians 4:3)

† Freedom hadn't come yet (John 8:34)

Romans 7:21

I find this principle, that evil is present in me when I want to do good

† The law reveals but cannot remove sin (Romans 3:20)

† This shows constant conflict (Galatians 5:17)

† This is pre-fulfillment reality (Hebrews 9:10)

Romans 7:22

I joyfully agree with the law of God in my inner being

† There is desire for righteousness (Psalm 1:2)

† But desire alone fails without power (Romans 8:3)

† This tension defines life under law (Galatians 3:23)

Romans 7:23

But I see another law in my body waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of sin

† Sin enslaved under the law (Romans 6:17)

† The law couldn't deliver from this war (Hebrews 7:19)

† This is captivity before Christ's fulfillment (Luke 4:18)

Romans 7:24

What a miserable man I am, who will rescue me from this body of death

† This cry points to the need for a Savior (Isaiah 61:1)

† The law offered no rescue (Galatians 3:21)

† Deliverance comes through Christ alone (Romans 8:2)

Romans 7:25

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord, so then, on one hand I serve the law of God in my mind, but on the other hand the law of sin in my flesh

† Christ is the answer to the problem (Romans 8:2)

† This transitions into victory in the next chapter (Romans 8:1)

† Fulfillment brings freedom from this struggle (John 8:36)

Historical References

† Josephus describes the burden of the law and its demands under the old covenant system

† Irenaeus wrote that the law prepared people but couldn't bring perfection

† Eusebius recorded the transition from temple-based worship to the new covenant reality

† Clement of Alexandria taught that the law was a tutor leading to Christ

How it applies to us today

† We are not under the law, that system has ended (Romans 6:14)

† The struggle in this chapter is not our identity today, we live in freedom (Romans 8:2)

† We don't serve God through law but through life in Christ (Galatians 2:20)

† This chapter shows what we've been delivered from, not what

we remain in

Q & A Appendix

Q Is this describing a Christian struggle today

A No, this describes life under the law before freedom in Christ (Romans 8:2)

Q Why does Paul speak in present tense

A He's illustrating the condition under the law, not defining the new covenant life (Galatians 4:21-31)

Q Was the law sinful

A No, the law was holy, but it exposed sin and couldn't remove it (Romans 7:12)

Q When did this condition end

A It ended in Christ and was fully realized when the old covenant passed away (Hebrews 8:13)

Q What is the solution to the struggle

A Jesus Christ brings freedom from sin and the law (Romans 8:2)

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

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Source Index

† Romans 7

† Josephus

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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