

Fulfilled Prophecies

[Home](#)

>

[Other](#)

>

[Share on Facebook](#)

[FACEBOOK LINK](#)

Romans 1 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Romans 1

Romans 1:1

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

† Paul begins by declaring his role as a bond-servant. In covenantal language this means total submission to God's will. The term recalls Exodus 14:31 where Israel believed in the Lord and in His servant Moses. Just as Moses was the covenant mediator of the Old Covenant, Paul presents himself as a

servant of the New.

† Being "set apart" recalls Jeremiah 1:5, where God set apart the prophet before birth. Paul's calling is rooted in prophetic tradition, but here it is fulfilled in proclaiming the gospel of God already established through Christ.

† Philo of Alexandria called Moses the supreme "servant of God," a title of honor. Paul applies the same title to himself, showing the shift of covenant authority into Christ's apostles.

Romans 1:2

which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures,

† Paul roots the gospel in prophecy. This shows continuity, not novelty. The gospel wasn't invented in Paul's time but promised in texts like Isaiah 53 and Jeremiah 31:31-34.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (4QFlorilegium) demonstrate how Jews of the first century expected imminent fulfillment of promises in their own day. Paul reveals that the true fulfillment is not in political deliverance but in Christ Himself.

† This verse alone refutes futurism. The promises were already fulfilled when Paul wrote, not waiting for a distant future age.

Romans 1:3-4

concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,

† Jesus fulfills the Davidic covenant of 2 Samuel 7. According to the flesh He was heir to David's throne. According to the Spirit of holiness He is Son of God with power.

† The resurrection vindicated His claim to kingship. Psalm 2:7, "You are My Son, today I have begotten You," is fulfilled in the resurrection (Acts 13:33).

† Josephus (Wars 6.5.4) notes Jewish expectation of a ruler from Judea. Paul declares Jesus is that ruler, revealed not by conquest but by resurrection.

Romans 1:5

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles in behalf of His name,

† Paul's apostleship is rooted in grace. His mission was to extend the gospel beyond Israel to the nations, fulfilling Genesis 12:3 where Abraham's seed would bless all families of the earth.

† "Obedience of faith" contrasts with "works of law." Faith is the covenant marker in Christ. This obedience is covenant trust, not Torah observance.

† Irenaeus (Against Heresies 3.13.1) points to Paul as the apostle who broke down the wall between Jew and Gentile, uniting them into one covenant family.

Romans 1:6-7

among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; 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 Christ.

† Gentile believers are called "saints." This term, once reserved for Israel, is now applied to the nations. This fulfills Daniel 7:27 where "the saints of the Most High" receive the kingdom.

† Tacitus (Annals 15.44) confirms that Christians in Rome formed a distinct community, even under persecution. Paul's

greeting of grace and peace was covenant encouragement for their trials.

Romans 1:8

First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the world.

† Their faith was known worldwide, showing the rapid spread of the gospel in the first century. Jesus said the gospel would be preached to all nations before the end came (Matthew 24:14). Paul affirms it was already happening.

† The Mishnah (Avot 1:2) claimed the world rests on Torah, worship, and kindness. Paul shifts this foundation to faith in Christ, which was already shaking the Roman world.

Romans 1:9-10

For God, whom I serve in my spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son, is my witness as to how without ceasing I make mention of you, always in my prayers requesting, if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to you.

† Paul served God "in his spirit," pointing to New Covenant worship not bound to temple or sacrifices. John 4:24 echoes this: those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.

† His unceasing prayers show the unity of the body across distances. The Roman believers could be confident that they were not forgotten.

Romans 1:11-12

For I long to see you so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.

† Spiritual gifts were temporary provisions for the early church to establish it before the end of the age (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). Paul desired to strengthen them with these gifts.

† Mutual encouragement shows the reciprocity of the body of Christ. Paul wasn't above needing their faith.

† Clement of Rome (1 Clement 42) testifies that the apostles, empowered by the Spirit, established churches by gifts and preaching.

Romans 1:13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, just as among the rest of the Gentiles.

† Paul sought "fruit" among them, meaning the conversion of more Gentiles. This ties directly to Jesus' parable of the vineyard (Matthew 21:43): the kingdom would be taken from unfruitful Israel and given to a people producing fruit.

Romans 1:14-15

I am under obligation both to Greeks and to the uncultured, both to the wise and to the foolish. So, for my part I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

† The gospel was not bound by culture, intellect, or social standing. From the elite philosophers to the unlearned, Paul's mission was universal.

† This fulfills Isaiah 45:22, "Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth."

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also

to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: "But the righteous one will live by faith."

† The gospel is God's power. Not Rome's armies, not the temple's rituals, but the gospel.

† "To the Jew first" reflects covenant priority. Israel received the promises, but they now extend equally to the nations. Isaiah 49:6 foretold that the Servant would be a light to the nations.

† The righteousness of God means His covenant faithfulness revealed in Christ. It is not man's righteousness but God's gift.

† Josephus shows that Jews of his time equated righteousness with Torah observance. Paul redefines righteousness as faith in Christ.

† Futurists delay righteousness to a future age, but Paul says it is already revealed. The righteous live by faith now.

Romans 1:18

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of people who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

† Wrath was already being revealed in Paul's day. It pointed to the judgment coming upon Israel and the nations culminating in AD 70.

† Josephus (Wars 6.9.3) describes the horrors of Jerusalem's fall, confirming this wrath in history.

Romans 1:19-20

because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and

divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

† Creation reveals God's attributes. Both Jew and Gentile were accountable. Psalm 19:1 affirms, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God."

† Futurists claim the world waits for greater revelation, but Paul says creation already leaves all without excuse.

Romans 1:21-23

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their reasonings, and their senseless hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and they exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible mankind, of birds, four-footed animals, and crawling creatures.

† Idolatry is the rejection of God for creation. Israel often fell into this (Psalm 106:20).

† Philo (On the Decalogue 52) condemned idolatry as the ultimate folly. Paul echoes this cultural critique.

Romans 1:24-25

Therefore God gave them up to vile impurity in the lusts of their hearts, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. For they exchanged the truth of God for falsehood, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

† "God gave them up" reflects covenant judgment. As in Hosea 4:17, "Ephraim is joined to idols, let him alone."

Romans 1:26-27

For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged natural relations for that which is

contrary to nature, and likewise the men too abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire toward one another, males with males committing shameful acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

† Paul uses sexual immorality as an example of covenant corruption. It shows how rebellion against God distorts even the most basic human relationships.

Romans 1:28-31

And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a depraved mind, to do those things that are not proper, people having been filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, without understanding, untrustworthy, unfeeling, and unmerciful.

† This catalog of sins matches Jewish critiques of paganism (Wisdom of Solomon 14:22-31). Yet Paul applies it equally to Israel, showing universal guilt.

Romans 1:32

and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also approve of those who practice them.

† Knowing God's ordinances but rejecting them results in judgment. This applied to Israel with the law and to Gentiles with conscience.

† Tacitus (Histories 1.2) lamented Rome's moral decay, showing that even pagans recognized the corruption Paul described.

How it applies to us today

† We must not be ashamed of the gospel. It remains God's power for salvation, not future speculation or man's effort.

† God's righteousness has already been revealed in Christ. We live in it now by faith, not waiting for a future age.

† Idolatry and moral decay surround us today as they did in the first century. Paul's warning is timeless: rejecting God leads to corruption, while faith in Christ restores righteousness.

† Just as the Roman church was a light in a hostile empire, so must our faith be visible today, proclaimed by how we live as Christ's covenant people.

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

Source Index

† Philo, On the Life of Moses 1.29 – Moses as servant of God

† Dead Sea Scrolls, 4QFlorilegium – Messianic expectations in the first century

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.5.4 – Expectation of a ruler from Judea

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.13.1 – Unity of Jew and Gentile in Christ

† Tacitus, Annals 15.44 – Roman persecution of Christians under Nero

† Mishnah, Avot 1:2 – World upheld by Torah, worship, and kindness

† Clement of Rome, 1 Clement 42 – Apostles empowered by the Spirit established churches

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6.9.3 – Wrath on Jerusalem in AD 70

† Philo, On the Decalogue 52 – Critique of idolatry

† Wisdom of Solomon 14:22-31 – Pagan corruption and immorality

† Tacitus, Histories 1.2 – Corruption and moral decline in Rome

Share on Facebook

Links

Facebook Link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/posts/>

Fulfilled Prophecies <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/>

Dan Maines

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1349070089314462/user/100001027365819/>

You may share this article freely without permission as long as you include credit to Dan Maines and/or a link to the Fulfilled Prophecies Group.