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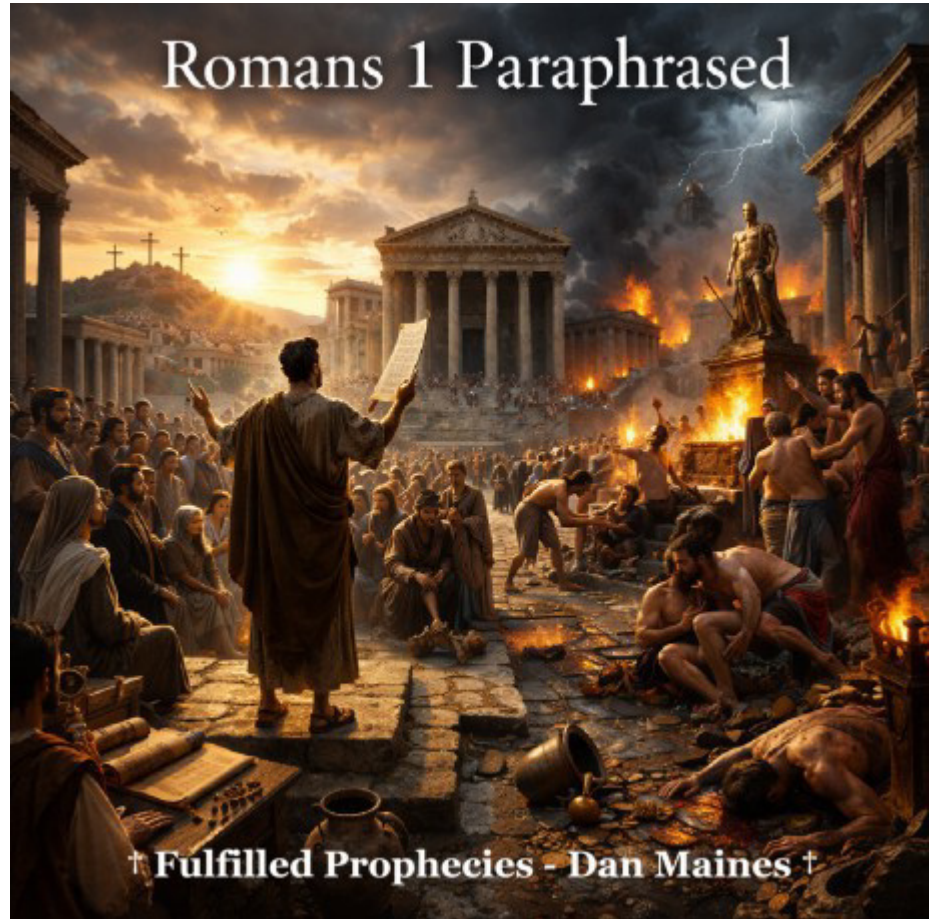
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Romans 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Romans 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Romans opens with Paul explaining the authority and purpose of the gospel. He shows that the message about Jesus wasn't invented by men but was promised long before through the prophets.

† The chapter also explains why the world needs the gospel. Humanity rejected the knowledge of God that was already visible in creation. Because of that rejection, God allowed people to follow the corruption of their own desires.

† From the fulfilled perspective, Paul was addressing the first century world where the old covenant age was passing away and the gospel was spreading to the nations.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and set apart for the good news of God.

† Paul begins by identifying himself as one completely devoted to Christ's service. His authority didn't come from religious leaders but from Christ Himself (Galatians 1:1).

† The gospel Paul preached wasn't a new invention but the unfolding of God's long promised plan.

† Irenaeus wrote that the apostles were sent into the world with authority to proclaim the gospel to every nation.

Romans 1:2

This good news was promised beforehand through God's prophets in the holy Scriptures.

† The gospel wasn't a surprise development. The prophets had already spoken about it centuries earlier.

† Passages such as Isaiah 52:7 and Isaiah 53 pointed directly to the coming salvation through the Messiah.

† Clement of Alexandria explained that the gospel fulfilled what the prophets had long declared.

Romans 1:3

It concerns His Son, who came from the line of David according to the flesh.

† Jesus fulfilled the promise that the Messiah would come from David's royal line (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

† His human ancestry proves the promises to Israel were truly fulfilled in history.

† Early Christian writers consistently affirmed Jesus as the promised Son of David.

Romans 1:4

He was declared to be the Son of God with power through the

Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.

† The resurrection publicly confirmed Jesus' identity as the Son of God.

† The resurrection was the decisive event that validated His authority and message (Acts 2:24-36).

† Eusebius wrote that the resurrection was the foundation upon which the apostles boldly proclaimed Christ to the nations.

Romans 1:5

Through Him we received grace and apostleship to bring about obedience of faith among all the nations for His name's sake.

† The apostles were sent beyond Israel to the nations. This fulfilled God's promise that all nations would be blessed through Abraham.

† Faith wasn't just belief but obedience that flowed from trusting Christ.

† Tertullian noted that the apostles carried the gospel into every region of the known world.

Romans 1:6

Among those nations you also are called to belong to Jesus Christ.

† The Roman believers were part of the expanding family of God among the nations.

† The gospel was already transforming communities across the empire.

† This shows the fulfillment of the promise that the nations would be included in God's people.

Romans 1:7

To all who are in Rome, loved by God and called as saints, grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

† Paul refers to the believers as saints, meaning those set apart for God.

† Grace and peace summarize the blessings of the new

covenant established through Christ.

† Early Christian communities often greeted one another with these same words.

Romans 1:8

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

† The Roman church had gained a strong reputation for faithfulness.

† The phrase whole world refers to the Roman world where the gospel was spreading rapidly.

† Eusebius recorded that the church in Rome became widely known in the early Christian movement.

Romans 1:9

God, whom I serve in my spirit in the gospel of His Son, is my witness that I constantly remember you.

† Paul's ministry was deeply personal and spiritual, not merely institutional.

† His prayers showed his genuine concern for believers he had not yet visited.

Romans 1:10

Always asking in my prayers that somehow, by God's will, I may finally come to you.

† Paul longed to visit Rome to strengthen the believers there.

† Travel in the first century was difficult, yet Paul continually sought opportunities to spread the gospel.

Romans 1:11

For I long to see you so that I may share some spiritual gift to strengthen you.

† Paul desired to encourage the believers with teaching and spiritual encouragement.

† The early church grew through direct instruction from the

apostles.

Romans 1:12

That is, that we may be encouraged together by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

† Christian fellowship involved mutual encouragement, not one sided teaching.

† Even an apostle recognized the value of shared faith.

Romans 1:13

I don't want you to be unaware, brothers, that I often planned to come to you but have been prevented until now, so that I may obtain some fruit among you also as among the rest of the nations.

† Paul had already seen many Gentiles come to faith in other regions.

† Rome represented another major center where the gospel could spread further.

Romans 1:14

I am obligated both to Greeks and to barbarians, both to the wise and to the foolish.

† The gospel wasn't limited by culture or education.

† The message of Christ was meant for every group in society.

Romans 1:15

So for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you also who are in Rome.

† Rome was the heart of the empire, making it a strategic location for spreading the message.

Romans 1:16

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

† The gospel carries God's power to rescue people from sin.

† The message first went to Israel and then to the nations as

promised in prophecy.

† Irenaeus affirmed that salvation through Christ was proclaimed to Jews and Gentiles alike.

Romans 1:17

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, just as it is written, the righteous will live by faith.

† Paul quotes Habakkuk 2:4 to show that faith has always been the basis of righteousness.

† This righteousness isn't earned through law but received through trusting God.

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.

† Humanity knew the truth about God but chose to suppress it.

† This rejection leads to moral corruption and judgment.

Romans 1:19

Because what may be known about God is evident within them, for God made it evident to them.

† God revealed Himself through creation and conscience.

† No one could claim complete ignorance of God's existence.

Romans 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

† The created world testifies to God's existence and power.

† Humanity's rejection of God is therefore deliberate.

Romans 1:21

For even though they knew God, they didn't honor Him as God or give thanks, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.

† The failure to honor God leads to intellectual and moral

confusion.

† Rejecting God results in spiritual darkness.

Romans 1:22

Claiming to be wise, they became fools.

† Human wisdom that rejects God becomes self destructive.

Romans 1:23

They exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for images resembling corruptible man and birds and animals and crawling creatures.

† Idolatry replaced true worship.

† The Roman world was filled with statues and images representing false gods.

Romans 1:24

Therefore God gave them over to the desires of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them.

† God allowed people to experience the consequences of their chosen path.

Romans 1:25

They exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshiped and served the creation rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

† This summarizes the core problem of idolatry.

Romans 1:26

For this reason God gave them over to dishonorable passions, for their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature.

† Moral confusion follows spiritual rebellion.

Romans 1:27

In the same way the men abandoned natural relations with women and burned in their desire for one another, men committing indecent acts with men and receiving in themselves

the due penalty of their error.

† Paul describes how rejection of God's design leads to destructive behavior.

Romans 1:28

Since they didn't see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them over to a depraved mind to do things that are not proper.

† When people reject truth repeatedly, their thinking becomes corrupted.

Romans 1:29

They were filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, and evil, full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, and malice, they are gossips.

† Paul lists the moral consequences of rejecting God.

Romans 1:30

Slanderers, haters of God, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents.

† These behaviors show how deeply corruption spreads when God is rejected.

Romans 1:31

Without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful.

† These traits describe a society that has abandoned God's truth.

Romans 1:32

Although they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve death, they not only do them but also approve of those who practice them.

† The final stage of corruption is celebrating what God condemns.

Historical References

† Irenaeus explained that Paul described the moral collapse of the pagan world before the gospel transformed it.

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that the knowledge of God existed in creation but was ignored by idol worshipers.

† Eusebius recorded that the Roman Empire was filled with idolatry and moral corruption before the spread of Christianity.

How It Applies To Us Today

† Creation still reveals God's existence to every generation.

† The gospel remains the power of God to rescue people from sin.

† Rejecting God's truth still leads to moral confusion.

† Faith in Christ brings righteousness that can't be earned through human effort.

Q & A Appendix

Q: Why did Paul say people are without excuse?

A: Because God's existence and power are visible in creation, leaving humanity responsible for rejecting Him (Romans 1:20).

Q: What is the power of God for salvation?

A: The gospel message about Jesus Christ (Romans 1:16).

Q: Why did Paul say the gospel went to the Jew first?

A: Because the promises and covenants were first given to Israel before spreading to the nations (Romans 1:16).

Q: What happens when people suppress the truth about God?

A: Their thinking becomes futile and their hearts become darkened (Romans 1:21).

Q: What is the result of rejecting God's design?

A: Moral corruption and a depraved mind that approves what God condemns (Romans 1:28-32).

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

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Source Index

† Romans 1

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

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