

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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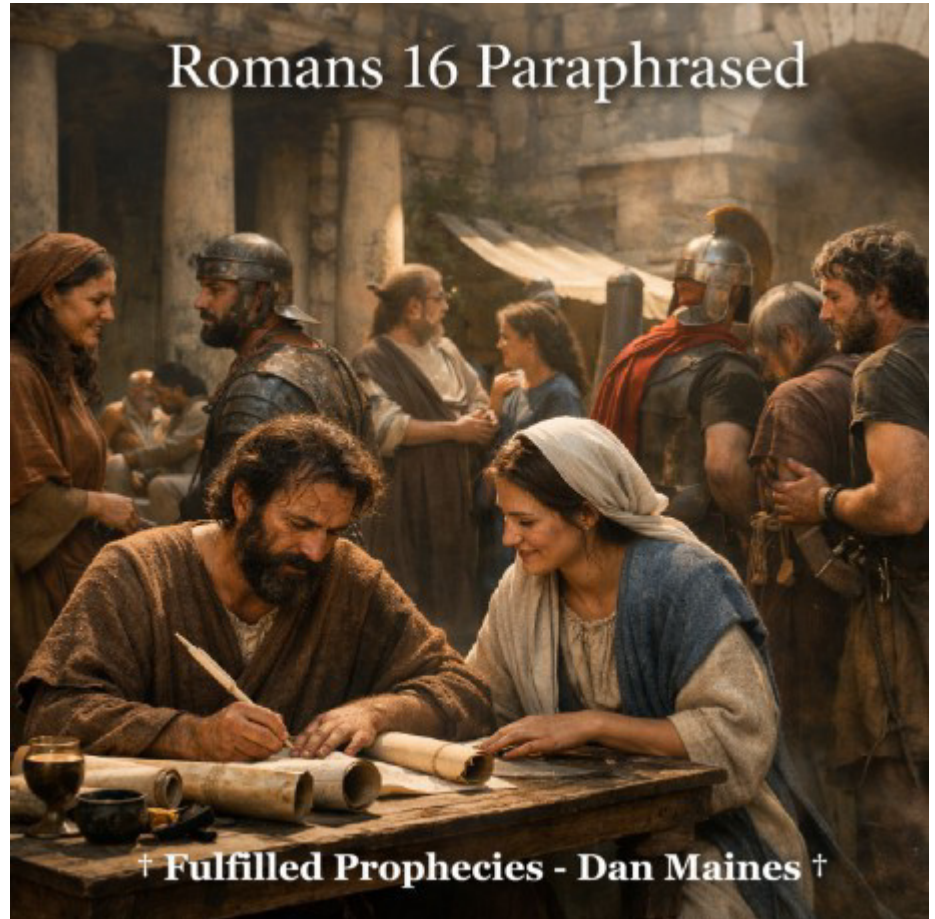
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## Romans 16 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

## Romans 16 Paraphrased

### Introduction

† Paul closes this letter by naming real people, showing this faith was already alive and active across many regions.

† This proves the gospel had already spread just as Jesus said it would within that generation (Matthew 24:14).

† The church was fully functioning before the judgment of Jerusalem, confirming fulfillment in their time.

### Romans 16:1

I'm commending to you our sister Phoebe, who serves the

assembly at Cenchrea.

† Phoebe is called a servant, showing women actively served in the early church (Romans 16:2).

† The church at Cenchrea proves the gospel had already spread geographically.

† This supports that the mission was nearly complete in their time (Romans 10:18).

### **Romans 16:2**

Receive her in the Lord in a way that's worthy of the saints, and help her with whatever she needs from you, because she's been a great help to many, including me.

† The body was expected to support one another in real ways, not just words (Galatians 6:10).

† Phoebe's role shows trust and responsibility within the church.

† This reflects the unity Christ prayed for (John 17:21).

### **Romans 16:3**

Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.

† They were leaders who taught others and helped establish the church (Acts 18:26).

† Paul calls them fellow workers, showing shared labor.

† The church grew through many people working together.

### **Romans 16:4**

They risked their own lives for me, and not only I give thanks for them, but all the assemblies of the nations do as well.

† Their sacrifice shows the real danger believers faced (Acts 18:2).

† Assemblies among the nations already existed.

† This confirms the tribulation they were living in (Revelation 1:9).

### **Romans 16:5**

Also greet the assembly that meets in their house. Greet my

beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert to Christ from Asia.

† House churches were the foundation of early gatherings.

† Firstfruits shows the beginning of a larger harvest (James 1:18).

† The gospel was spreading outward quickly.

### **Romans 16:6**

Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you.

† Labor in the faith was recognized and honored.

† Many believers served faithfully behind the scenes.

† The church was built through effort and commitment.

### **Romans 16:7**

Greet Andronicus and Junia, my relatives and fellow prisoners, who are well known among the apostles, and they were in Christ before me.

† The message spread rapidly even before Paul's ministry.

† Imprisonment shows active persecution.

† They were respected among leadership.

### **Romans 16:8**

Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord.

† Personal relationships mattered deeply in the early church.

† Paul shows genuine affection for fellow believers.

† Unity was relational, not just doctrinal.

### **Romans 16:9**

Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.

† Again we see shared labor in building the body.

† The work of Christ involved many workers.

† Love and service went hand in hand.

### **Romans 16:10**

Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who

belong to the household of Aristobulus.

† Being approved shows tested and proven faith (James 1:12).

† Entire households were coming into the faith.

† The gospel reached both individuals and families.

### **Romans 16:11**

Greet Herodion, my relative. Greet those of the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord.

† Faith existed even within influential households.

† The message spread into different social levels.

† The kingdom was reaching everywhere.

### **Romans 16:12**

Greet Tryphaena and Tryphosa, workers in the Lord. Greet Persis the beloved, who has worked hard in the Lord.

† Multiple women are again recognized for their labor.

† Work in the Lord was valued regardless of status.

† Faithfulness was seen in action.

### **Romans 16:13**

Greet Rufus, a chosen man in the Lord, and his mother, who has been like a mother to me as well.

† Rufus is singled out as chosen, showing honor and recognition.

† His mother cared for Paul personally.

† The church functioned like a family.

### **Romans 16:14**

Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers with them.

† Groups of believers gathered together in fellowship.

† These names show the diversity within the church.

† Unity existed across different backgrounds.

### **Romans 16:15**

Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas,

and all the saints with them.

† Multiple gatherings existed in different locations.

† The saints were already widespread.

† This supports that the gospel had reached far regions.

### **Romans 16:16**

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the assemblies of Christ greet you.

† This shows affection and unity among believers.

† Assemblies of Christ were already established widely.

† This confirms the global spread in their time (Colossians 1:6).

### **Romans 16:17**

Now I urge you, brothers, watch out for those who cause divisions and stumbling blocks contrary to what you've learned, and stay away from them.

† Division was already a threat within the church.

† False teaching had already begun to spread.

† They were told to separate from those causing problems.

### **Romans 16:18**

For such people don't serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the unsuspecting.

† False teachers were motivated by selfish gain (2 Peter 2:3).

† Deception came through appealing speech.

† Believers needed discernment.

### **Romans 16:19**

For your obedience has become known to all, so I rejoice over you, but I want you to be wise in what is good and innocent in what is evil.

† Their faith was widely known, showing broad communication.

† Obedience was a defining mark of believers.

† Wisdom and purity were both required.

## **Romans 16:20**

The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

† This was about to happen in their time, not thousands of years later.

† Satan's defeat ties directly to the destruction of the old covenant system (Hebrews 2:14).

† This confirms the nearness of fulfillment.

## **Romans 16:21**

Timothy my fellow worker greets you, along with Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my relatives.

† These were known leaders working alongside Paul.

† The ministry was a shared effort.

† Relationships were central to the mission.

## **Romans 16:22**

I, Tertius, who wrote this letter, greet you in the Lord.

† This confirms Paul used a scribe.

† The letter was dictated and recorded carefully.

† This shows how scripture was preserved.

## **Romans 16:23**

Gaius, who hosts me and the whole assembly, greets you.

Erastus, the city treasurer, greets you, and our brother Quartus.

† Gaius hosted gatherings, showing the importance of hospitality.

† Erastus shows people in public roles were part of the church.

† The gospel reached into civic life.

## **Romans 16:24**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

† Grace is the foundation of everything in the faith.

† This blessing was central to the message.

† It reminds them of their standing in Christ.

## **Romans 16:25**

Now to Him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret for long ages past.

† The mystery refers to the inclusion of the nations (Ephesians 3:6).

† What was hidden is now revealed in Christ.

† This was unfolding in their time.

## **Romans 16:26**

But now it has been revealed and made known through the prophetic writings to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, leading to obedience of faith.

† The mystery is no longer hidden, it's revealed.

† It has gone out to all nations already.

† This fulfills prophecy being made known.

## **Romans 16:27**

To the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.

† All glory belongs to God through Christ.

† The work was completed according to His plan.

† This closes the letter with worship and fulfillment.

## **Historical References**

† Josephus records the spread of Jewish sects and early Christian presence before AD 70, showing the message had already reached many regions.

† Eusebius writes that the apostles and early believers spread across the known world before Jerusalem fell.

† Clement of Alexandria confirms the wide teaching and movement of the gospel in the first century.

## **How It Applies To Us Today**

† We see that the faith was already established and fulfilled in

their generation, not waiting for a future age.

† We are called to walk in that finished work, not expecting what has already been completed.

† Unity, service, and truth still define how we live today.

## **Q & A Appendix**

**Q:** Was the gospel fully spread in their time?

**A:** Yes, Colossians 1:6, 23 shows it had already gone into all the world.

**Q:** When was Satan crushed?

**A:** Romans 16:20 says soon for them, fulfilled in their generation with the end of the old system (Hebrews 2:14).

**Q:** Was the mystery still hidden?

**A:** No, it was revealed in their time (Ephesians 3:6).

**Q:** Were there already many churches?

**A:** Yes, Romans 16 lists many assemblies across regions.

**Q:** Does this support fulfilled prophecy?

**A:** Yes, everything points to completion in their lifetime (Matthew 24:34).

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

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## **Source Index**

† Romans 16

† Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

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