

The Gospel of God

Romans, Part II

Romans 1:1-7

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I. Whose story is it?

"When we submit our lives to what we read in Scripture, we find that we are not being led to see God in our stories but our stories in God's. God is the larger context and plot in which our stories find themselves... The biblical story invites us in as participants in something larger than our sin-defined needs, into something truer than our culture-stunted ambitions. We enter these stories and recognize ourselves as participants, whether willing or unwilling, in [God's plan for the world]." Eugene Peterson

II. The Gospel of God

¹Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God ²which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, ³concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, ⁴and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ⁵Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name, ⁶among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; ⁷To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. The Gospel Defined

B. Promised Before

C. Concerning His Son

- *Concerning His Son*
 - *Who came of the seed of David according to the flesh*
 - *Who was declared to be 'the Son of God with power' according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection from the dead*
- *Even Jesus Christ our Lord*

Paul insists that the *Good News* concerns God's _____. He then tells us two things about God's Son. First, Jesus *came of the seed of David according to the flesh*, He had a legitimate claim to the throne of His father David. But simply having a rightful claim to the throne does not establish that He does in fact rule. So, second, Jesus *was declared to be the Son of God*, the King of Israel, *with power*. He was actually crowned King.

How did this take place? First, He lived a holy life. He obtained the right to rule as God's King *according to the Spirit of holiness* (cf. 5:19; Heb 5:7). Second, God vindicated Jesus by raising Him from the dead and has given Him power and authority over all the nations of the earth. He is God's Christ, His Anointed Ruler, the Lord of all.

- I. Introduction
 - A. Opening Greeting (1:1-7)
 - B. Travel Plans (1:8-15)
 - C. Theme (1:16-17)
- II. Credenda: "The Righteous by Faith" Shall Live
 - A. God's Wrath vs. Unrighteousness (1:18-3:20)
 - B. The Revelation of God's Righteousness (3:21-5)
 - C. The Triumph of God's Righteousness (6-8)
 - D. The Universality of God's Righteousness (9-11)
- III. Agenda: The Righteous "Shall Live by Faith"
 - A. Transformed not Conformed (12-13)
 - B. Patient not Proud (14-15:13)
- IV. Conclusion
 - A. Paul, Minister to the Gentiles (15:14-21)
 - B. Travel Plans (15:22-33)
 - C. Closing Greetings and Benediction (16)

So what is the Gospel? The Good News is that God's Davidic King has been born, has rescued His people through His life of holiness and sacrificial death on the cross, and that He has been enthroned as Ruler of all the earth.

III. Good News for All Nations

A. The Original Covenant (cf. 2 Sam 7:12-16)

¹²"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. ¹⁵But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." (2 Sam 7:12-16)

B. The Prophetic Promise (cf. Is 9:6-7; 49:1-7; Jer 23:1-6)

Because David's heirs were unfaithful sons, God promised that one day He Himself would send a true Son of David, a Faithful Son.

¹"Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. ²Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD. ³"But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD. ⁵"Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. ⁶In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer 23:1-6)

So why was this promise good news for the nations? Note the promise of Isaiah:

⁵"And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), ⁶Indeed He says, 'It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.' " (Is 49:5-6)

Jesus is the Savior of the world; He has come to save both Jew and Gentile, to bring the blessings of His reign to all nations.

IV. Application

V. Conclusion