

Survey of the Bible Series – Romans

(SB_Romans_Introduction-Part 2)

In part 1 of our Introduction to Romans, we examined relevant aspects of the historical, doctrinal and theological context of Paul's letter to the Romans – all part of the dynamics at play during the first half of the 1st Century A.D that surrounded the emergence of Paul as an Apostle to the Gentiles. A brief summary is in order prior to concluding our introduction to this important theological epistle.

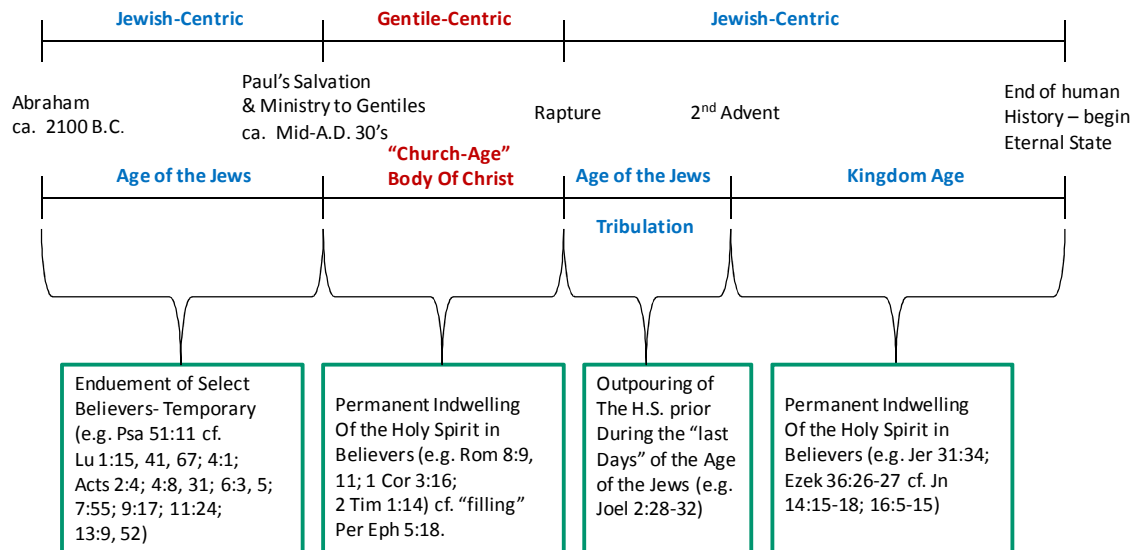
After his conversion on the road to Damascus (ca. A.D. 34), Paul's first few years were spent preaching in Damascus, a period of time spent in Arabia, and then a return to Damascus. During this early period of Paul's Christian life, he also made a trip to Jerusalem to meet with Peter and James and he continued to work in the regions of Syria and Cilicia, thereby largely staying away from Jerusalem. Paul made another trip to Jerusalem at the outset of his 1st Missionary Journey. The first epistle that we possess that Paul wrote is the epistle to the Galatians written in A.D. 49. There are concepts that Paul introduces to us in that first epistle that are addressed in very complementary ways in his subsequent epistles – to include Romans. These concepts, having some similarities with, yet striking distinctions from the principles that were true of the Age of the Jews, include some of the following ideas (some of which may overlap with each other to a degree):

- ✠ Salvation is by faith alone, not associated with becoming a Jewish proselyte.
- ✠ Identity truths – the believer is identified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.
- ✠ Positional Sanctification of the believer through union with Christ's Person and Work.
- ✠ The potential for experiential sanctification whereby the believer's person and life looks like Christ.
- ✠ Equal standing of Jew and Gentile in the Body of Christ.
- ✠ The temporary suspension of God's Jewish-centric program and replacement with a Gentile-centric program.
- ✠ The true sons of Abraham and inheritors of the blessing promised to Abraham is based upon faith, not flesh (although, ultimately, it will be the genetic descendants of Abraham who will experience the fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham).

We highlighted some of the similarities and distinctions between God's 2000+ year Jewish-centric program and the intercalated Gentile-centric program. One of the similarities I mentioned was the similarity of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in regard to the prophesied Kingdom age (i.e. Millennium or Messianic Kingdom) and the present Gentile-centric dispensation.

It is my understanding that Scripture (e.g. Hebrew prophecies and prophecies in such passages as John 14-16) indicate that there will be an indwelling of believers during the Kingdom age similar to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that is the privilege of believers today in the present Gentile-centric dispensation known as the "Church Age" or the age of the "Body of Christ." This is distinct from the temporary endowment and outpouring of the Holy Spirit that we observe to be characteristic of the Age of the Jews (i.e. the period from Abraham until the intercalation of the present age plus the period we call the seven-year Tribulation). The similarities and distinctions in regard to the Holy Spirit's ministry to believers of different dispensations is vitally important to our understanding and appreciation of Paul's instruction to us. The chart below attempts to capture and reflect some of the distinctions.

Dispensational Perspective: The Believer and the Holy Spirit



✠ **ENDUEMENT OF SELECT BELIEVERS – TEMPORARY (*Age of the Jews*)**

Psalm 51:11

Do not cast me away from Your presence
And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Luke 1:15

"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

Luke 1:41

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Luke 1:67

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:
"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people.

Luke 4:1

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness.

Acts 2:4

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers and elders of the people,

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness.

Acts 6:3

"Therefore, brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.

Acts 6:5

The statement found approval with the whole congregation; and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch.

Acts 7:55

But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Acts 9:17

So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 11:24

For he was a good man, and full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And considerable numbers were brought to the Lord.

Acts 13:9

But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him.

Acts 13:52

And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

Note: After the unbelieving Jews at Antioch rejected Paul due to jealousy over the multitudes of Gentiles who accepted Jesus as the Messiah who had been crucified, a gospel consistent with the Jew first-then Gentile principle, Paul's ministry focus becomes the Gentiles (Acts 13:46). Luke records the last "filling" with the Holy Spirit of this "endowment" type nature to be related to the disciples who attended Paul's departure from Antioch to Iconium on his first missionary journey. Paul wrote Galatians in A.D. 49 after his return from this first missionary journey – a letter in which we see some of the important truths

unique to the present age first mentioned in Scripture. From this point forward in Paul's ministry, there would be constant harassment and opposition from the Judaizers. Acts 9-13 seems to be a passage set at the intersection of two programs or dispensations.

✠ **PERMANENT INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ("Church Age" Body of Christ)**

Romans 8:9

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

1 Corinthians 3:16

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

2 Timothy 1:14

Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you.

✠ **OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT DURING THE "LAST DAYS" OF THE AGE OF THE JEWS (Age of the Jews)**

Joel 2:28-32

The Promise of the Spirit

²⁸"It will come about after this [*reference to Joel 2:12-17*]
That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind;
And your sons and daughters will prophesy,
Your old men will dream dreams,
Your young men will see visions.
²⁹"Even on the male and female servants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

The Day of the LORD

³⁰"I will display wonders in the sky and on the earth,
Blood, fire and columns of smoke.
³¹"The sun will be turned into darkness
And the moon into blood
Before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes.
³²"And it will come about that whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Will be delivered;
For on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem
There will be those who escape,
As the LORD has said,
Even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.

Joel 2:12-17 – Repentance of the Jews and their nation, Israel

- ¹²"Yet even now," declares the LORD,
"Return to Me with all your heart,
And with fasting, weeping and mourning;
¹³And rend your heart and not your garments "
Now return to the LORD your God,
For He is gracious and compassionate,
Slow to anger, abounding in lovingkindness
And relenting of evil.
¹⁴Who knows whether He will not turn and relent
And leave a blessing behind Him,
Even a grain offering and a drink offering
For the LORD your God?
¹⁵Blow a trumpet in Zion,
Consecrate a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly,
¹⁶Gather the people, sanctify the congregation,
Assemble the elders,
Gather the children and the nursing infants
Let the bridegroom come out of his room
And the bride out of her bridal chamber.
¹⁷Let the priests, the LORD'S ministers,
Weep between the porch and the altar,
And let them say, "Spare Your people, O LORD,
And do not make Your inheritance a reproach,
A byword among the nations
Why should they among the peoples say,
'Where is their God?'"

✠ **PERMANENT INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – (Kingdom Age)**

Jeremiah 31:34

"They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them," declares the LORD, "for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

Ezekiel 36:26-27

"Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

John 14:15-18

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

John 16:5-15

⁵"But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'

⁶"But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

⁷"But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

⁸"And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;

⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;

¹⁰and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

¹¹and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.

¹²"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

¹³"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

¹⁴"He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you.

¹⁵"All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

SIMPLE OUTLINE OF ROMANS

- I. Introduction (1:1-17)
- II. The need for God's righteousness (1:18-3:20)
 - a. Gentiles (1:18-32)
 - b. Jews (2:1-3:8)
 - c. The guilt of all of humanity (3:9-20)
- III. The imputation of God's righteousness – Justification by Faith, a pattern set by Abraham (3:21-5:21)
- IV. Righteousness in the Phase 2 life of the believer of this present age (6 – 8)
- V. Failure to demonstrate God's righteousness – the reason for God's temporary suspension of His Jewish-centric program (9 – 11)
- VI. Practical application of God's righteousness in the life of the believer (12 – 15)