

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

Lesson Two:

ACTS OF THE APOSTLES EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS

The book of **Acts** was written by Luke, probably around A.D. 65. It is an historical **transition** of God's dealings with Israel to God's working with an emerging Gentile church.

The first great statement is about Jesus Christ: "**...he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs...**" (Acts 1:3) Before as many as one hundred witnesses Jesus ascended into heaven. Two angels appeared and said, "**This same Jesus shall come again...**" (Acts 1:11), a promise of His **second Advent**.

Chapter Two contains highly controversial passages relating to the receiving of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues. "**Tongues**" in Acts 2:4 are clearly known languages, listed in verses 9 and 10. Another problem occurs with **Acts 2.38**, which is specifically dealing with the Jews and refers to ceremonial cleansing for the remission of sins. It has nothing to do with salvation. There is no such thing as "baptismal regeneration."

In **Chapter Seven**, **Stephen's** sermon which reviewed Israel's history caused the Jews to get so angry that they stoned him to death. Stephen became the first Christian martyr.

The Ethiopian eunuch got saved in **Chapter Eight** and was told by Philip that he could be water baptized if he **truly believed** that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Saul of Tarsus (later, **the Apostle Paul**) was a Jewish Pharisee on his way to Damascus in **Chapter Nine** to arrest Christians and to bring them to Jerusalem to be executed. The risen Lord Jesus Christ prevented him from proceeding. A shocked Saul said in Chapter 9:6, "**...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?**" The Lord's response in verse 15 was, "**...he (Saul/Paul) is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles...**"

The Gentile Cornelius and his family got saved through the Apostle Peter in **Chapter 10**. In **Chapter 12**, James Zebedee was executed by King Herod. Herod also put **Peter in prison** and was planning to kill him, but Mary Mark (John Mark's mother) had many believers in her home praying for Peter. God sent an angel to release him from prison.

Chapters 13-20 record Paul's three missionary journeys from Antioch, Syria. Paul was apprehended in Chapter 23 and brought before Governor Felix. He then was brought before Gov. Festus and King Agrippa. Amidst all the confusion, Paul (a Roman citizen) appealed to Caesar. He was then taken to Rome.

In **Chapters 27-28** Paul was on his way to Rome. Because of a hurricane, he was shipwrecked on the island of Malta. After being stranded on the island three months, a ship from Alexandria, Egypt took Paul on to Rome, where he remained under house arrest for about six years.

The book of **ROMANS**, obviously written by the Apostle Paul, is the doctrinal book on salvation in the New Testament. The word "faith" occurs 34 times in sixteen chapters, a key verse being Chap. 5:1: "**...being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**"

The phrase "of God" occurs 70 times, a key verse being Chapter 10:7: **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."**

The significance of the book of Romans is that in the day it was written, the Roman Empire encompassed most of Europe and part of Southwest Asia. It had a huge audience. It is aimed very specifically at Gentiles (Acts 9:15). In Romans 15:16, Paul said, **"That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles..."**

In Chapter 1:22-25 God makes a very clear statement regarding His opinion of multiple Bible versions. He says, **"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools...who changed the truth of God into a lie..."** In Chapter 3:4 God says, **"...let God be true, but every man a liar;"**

Romans 3:23 says, **"...all have sinned..."** The only sinless man ever to walk this earth was Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:15). Romans 5:8 says, **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."** And in 1 Peter 3:18: **"...Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:"**

God has given us a most incredible gift! **"...the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."** (Romans 6:23) See also 1 John 2:25.

Paul makes a very revealing statement in Chap. 7:18: **"...in my flesh...dwelleth no good thing..."** We are warned in Chapter 8:4: **"...walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."** A very frequently quoted verse is Chapter 8:28: **"...all things work together for good to them that love God...who are the called according to his purpose."** Notice how very conditional this verse is.

Romans 9:13 is a controversial statement: **"...Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated."** It has been much misused by Calvinists. Jacob is Israel and Esau is Edom. This is a reference to nations, not individuals.

Romans 10:9 & 13 are two great salvation verses. **"...thou shalt be saved..."** by confessing the Lord Jesus and calling upon His name.

Chapter 11 makes it very clear that God is not finished with Israel, His chosen people, contrary to what the replacement theologians may say

The warning in Chapter 12:2 is, **"...be not conformed to this world:..."**

In Chapter 14:10 we note that, **"...we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."**

Chapter 14:17 states that, **"The kingdom of God is not meat and drink;..."**

Paul concludes his epistle to the Romans, with a reference to a **"mystery:"** **"...the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began..."**