

Romans An Introduction

“To confront Romans is to confront one’s faith at its source, to have it judged and healed, to have it called into question and renewed, to have it shattered and restored in stronger and more vital form.” – Paul J. Achtemeier

About Paul

- Saul born in Tarsus, city in Asia Minor
- Family was from the tribe of Benjamin
- Family members were Roman citizens (why?)
- Raised as a Pharisee and well educated in Hebrew & Greek literature, culture
- A leading persecutor of Christians
- Road to Damascus
- Saul was Hebrew name, Paul was the Latin form of the name
- So why the name change?
- Tradition that he was beheaded in Rome around 67 AD

No doubts about authorship

Letter believed written in Corinth circa 55-58 AD at end of third mission
Plans: To Jerusalem, then visit Rome, then onto Spain

Longest of Paul’s works – what does that tell us?

Only letter written to a church he did not found

Other letters written in response to some specific, immediate need

Why did he write this?

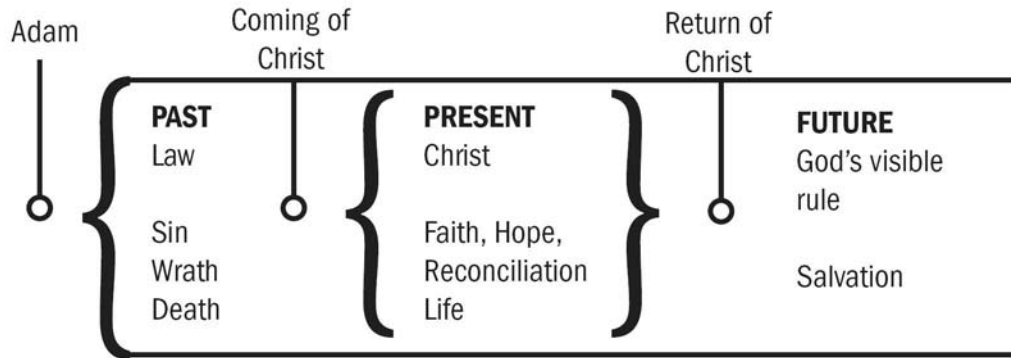
- Introduction
- Asking for help
- Welcoming back Jesus Christians & explanation of relationship
- Wanted to provide a basic theology as no apostle had been there yet

Based his arguments in the Old Testament writings

Jewish Apocalyptic View:



Paul's revision of apocalyptic view:



“Romans is Paul’s desire, led by the Holy Spirit, to explain and to affirm what has happened in human lives and in the whole of creation, through the life, death and resurrection of Christ and through the establishment of the church.”
– Art Ross and Martha Stevenson

Who are God’s chosen people?

Just certain denominations?

Religions?

Only those who can speak in tongues?

Only those who do the “right” behaviors?

Only Christians?

Claims made by Paul

1. God is God of all people, history and creation
2. Christ is God’s gift to all humankind
3. We acknowledge the gift through faith in Christ

What if God wasn’t God of all people? What would that mean?