

CALVARY BIBLE CHURCH

# Review of Romans 1 – 8

# Overview of Romans 9 - 16

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Wednesday Night Discussion Groups

**Questions or comments? Contact: Tim & Melinda Inman**

**Fall 2008 – Spring 2009**

Preparing to study the second half of the book of Romans: instructions given to review what was previously studied in Romans 1 – 8 if you studied last year, with study instructions included for those who are just joining the study this year. Instructions given for preparation for studying Romans 9 – 16-- Overview, both for those who studied last year and for those who are just joining the Romans study.

# Continuing in Romans

## Overview to prepare to study, Week #1

### Review Romans 1 - 8

In order to continue our study of the second half of the book of Romans, we must do some review of Romans 1 – 8 in order to re-establish context before moving on. In order to do this, we will suggest a few assignments that help you to review. **Read all of this week's assignments before beginning, and combine them in any way that suits your own personal study style.**

**If you are just joining us in this study,** we have additional suggestions for you within each day's assignment. We also include alternative assignments for those just beginning to study Romans.

#### Day One, Two, and Three:

**For everyone:** Start at the beginning of the book of Romans, and read through the entire book. As you do so, **starting in Romans 1 and going all the way through Romans 16, mark in the same way all the words pertaining to Jews, Israel, and all the pronouns** for the Jews, or Israel (a star of David symbol is easy to make and represents the Jewish nation). This will allow you to easily see all we have studied so far which relates to the Jews, and help you tie the first half of the book to the section we will study next: Romans 9 – 11.

**If you did not study Romans last year:** Complete the above assignment and also mark Abraham in a separate way, as he is the father of the Jews. **(Additional study suggestion:** If time permits this week, mark these words also, each in a distinct, separate way in Romans 1 – 16: “gospel”, “righteous (-ness)”, “faith” (trust, believe), “justification” (justly, justified, just), and “law”. This will help you see important themes in the entire book.)

#### Day Four and Five:

**If you studied Romans last year,** review all of your chapter headings and the paragraph headings for Romans 1 – 8 as you look carefully at each chapter again, in order to fix in your mind the content of the first 8 chapters of Romans. **Then, to retain all of this, from memory complete the chart on pages 3 & 4.** See if you can recall the subject of each chapter without referring to your notes. As much as possible recall paragraph content (some paragraphs are combined on the chart), looking at your working copy from last year only as necessary:

**If you did not study Romans last year,** and are just joining us, as you read through Romans 1 – 8, **based on your first impressions, jot a title for each chapter that sums up in a simple way what that chapter is about, and a brief summary of each paragraph,** as you are able. Use the chart on the next two pages to record your work.

## Summary of Romans 1 - 5, Part 1

### 1. What is Chapter 1 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 7:

Theme of v. 8 - 15:

Theme of v. 16, 17:

Theme of v. 18 - 25:

Theme of v. 26 - 32:

### 2. What is Chapter 2 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 4:

Theme of v. 5 - 11:

Theme of v. 12 - 16:

Theme of v. 17 - 27:

Theme of v. 28 - 29:

### 3. What is the first half of Chapter 3 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 8:

Theme of v. 9 - 18:

Theme of v. 19, 20:

### Summary of the theme of Romans, up to this point:

### 3. cont., What is the rest of Chapter 3 about:

Theme of v. 21 - 26:

Theme of v. 27 - 31:

### 4. What is Chapter 4 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 8:

Theme of v. 9 - 12:

Theme of v. 13 - 15:

Theme of v. 16, 17:

Theme of v. 18 - 25:

### 5. What is Chapter 5 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 8:

Theme of v. 9 - 11:

Theme of v. 12 - 14:

Theme of v. 15 - 19:

## Summary of Romans 6 - 8, Part 2

### 6. What is Chapter 6 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 7:

Theme of v. 8 - 10:

Theme of v. 11 - 14: (list specific commands given)

Theme of v. 15 - 18:

Theme of v. 19 - 23: (list specific instruction given)

### 7. What is Chapter 7 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 6:

Theme of v. 7 - 13:

Theme of v. 14 - 20:

Theme of v. 21 - 25a:

Theme of v. 25b:

Summarize briefly your position on the interpretation of v. 7 - 25:

### 8. What is Chapter 8 about:

Theme of v. 1 - 8:

Theme of v. 9 - 11:

Theme of v. 12 - 17:

Theme of v. 18 - 25:

Theme of v. 26 - 30:

Theme of v. 31 - 39:

**Summary of the theme of this section, Romans 6 - 8**

## Overview to prepare to study, Week #2

### Examining Romans 9 – 16

This week we will move on and focus in on Romans 9 – 16. As with each and every day of study, even what seems to be just preparatory to study, pray for the Lord to enlighten your heart to understand His Word. Read everything on this page before beginning. **There is an observation chart on the next page to record the background information, either because you didn't study Romans last year, or because you no longer have your chart.**

#### Day One & Two:

**If you studied Romans last year:** Get out the chart you completed at the beginning of last year—**Observations on the Book of Romans**—and review what you recorded there. This chart contained information you discovered last year about who the author was, when the letter was written to the Romans, where it was written from, what type of literature the book is, why the author wrote, who the recipients were, what key words or phrases or themes the letter contained, what the main theme was, and what the theme of each section was (Part 1: Chapters 1 – 5, Part 2: Chapters 6 – 8, Part 3: Chapters 9 – 11, and Part 4: Chapters 12 – 16).

As you review, **make any adjustments to your original assumptions about themes** at the bottom of the page. Evaluate what you wrote for the main theme, and for the theme of each section. Make any changes, or fill in any additional information. **Look at your working copy and fill in the section themes at the beginning of Chapter 9, and Chapter 12. Then evaluate and make any changes necessary to the chapter themes you assigned to each chapter last year at the beginning of the year. If you didn't complete this last year assign each chapter a title or theme now, focusing on Romans 9 – 16.**

Move ahead to Day 3 assignments if this doesn't take all your time for both days.

**If you did not study Romans with us last year:** Examine these passages: Romans 1: 1 - 17; Romans 15: 14 – 16: 27 to help you **fill in the chart on the next page: Observations on the Book of Romans**. Choose a good bible commentary, such as The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Barker & Kohlenberger III, Zondervan, 1994, or The NIV Application Commentary, by Douglas J. Moo, Zondervan, 2000, to help you complete historical research. Both of these are in the church library as reference volumes. Don't look at interpretation notes, but only at historical and background information for the book of Romans.

**Based on what you've done so far assign a main theme for the book of Romans, and determine a theme for each section** (Part 1: Chapters 1 – 5, Part 2: Chapters 6 – 8, Part 3: Chapters 9 – 11, and Part 4: Chapters 12 – 16). **Then assign chapter themes** to each chapter, 1 – 16, on your working copy. Consult the overview/review chart you completed last week for Romans 1 – 8.

## **Observations on the book of Romans**

**Who is the author?**

**Who served as his scribe?**

**When was this letter written and from where?**

**What type of literature is this book?**

**Why did the author write?**

**Who were the recipients? Are any of them named?**

**What key words or phrases did you mark or notice for later investigation?**

**What is the main theme of the book of Romans?**

**What is the theme of Chapters 1 – 5?**

**What is the theme of Chapters 6 – 8?**

**What is the theme of Chapters 9 – 11?**

**What is the theme of Chapters 12 – 16?**

## Day Three & Four:

**We are now going to focus in on Romans 9 – 11.** We are going to take the time to read this section and mark the key words we noticed in the previous sections we studied into this section, so we can trace the themes and important ideas from Romans 1 – 8 in this section as well. The key words we will be marking or noticing were the words we marked in each entire section, which were in addition to key words for the entire book (gospel, righteous (-ness), faith (trust, believe), justification (justly, justified, just), and law). **(Make sure you have these marked in the entire book of Romans.)**

**If you studied Romans last year:** Look back at how you marked these words in Romans 1 - 8: **grace, wrath, judge (judgment), Gentiles, sin (transgression), hope, gift, power, glory, life, death** because these significant words are also used in Romans 9 – 11. Also look for any other words which you marked as significant for an entire section of Romans 1 – 5 or 6 - 8. Using the same marks you chose for these key words, take your note card of chosen marks, and run it under the text in order to see words clearly as you read, and **mark them accordingly in Romans 9 – 11.** Do a few at a time until you have completed the entire list. (If you need a review of how to do this, and why we do it, read the assignment below for those who did not study Romans with us last year). **If you complete this assignment early, go on to Day Five.**

**If you did not study Romans with us last year the rest of the instructions on this page are for you:** Do this **first** if you didn't get it done last week: If you didn't mark the significant words for the entire book of Romans last week, due to time constraints, take the time to mark them now in Romans 9 – 16 only. Those words are: **gospel, righteous (-ness), faith (trust, believe), justification (justly, justified, just), and law.**

**How to:** This task is easier to do if you use a note card and write each of the key words, along with the mark you have chosen for that word, on the note card. As you read Romans 9 - 16, run the note card along under the text so you can easily see the words you are looking for, and the mark you have chosen. Mark each word in all of Romans 9 – 16. Looking for 2 or 3 words at a time, as you are able, is the easiest way to do that. Starting with the first 2 or 3 on the list, mark those words with the mark you have chosen, then go back and look for and mark the next 2 or 3 words until you are done marking all the words you have written on your note card.

**You will now mark words that were significant in the two parts of Romans which we studied last year, Romans 1 – 5 and Romans 6 – 8.** These key words which are also used in Romans 9 - 11 are: **grace, wrath, judge (judgment), Gentiles, sin (transgression), hope, gift, power, glory, life, death.** Mark these words using the “How to” steps above.

Marking significant words not only gives you an advantage in easily finding important words which identify themes of entire sections of Romans, but it also gives you several slow and careful read-throughs of these chapters, Romans 9 – 11, in order to familiarize you even more with the content, and it helps you interpret according to context because you know what themes appear in other sections of this long letter.

## Day Five:

As with each and every day of study, even what seems to be just preparatory to study, pray for the Lord to enlighten your heart to understand His Word, and let His Word convict and teach you.

### **All assignments from this point on are for everyone:**

As we continue to focus in on Romans 9 – 11, **we are now going to mark the key, significant words for this section of Romans, Chapters 9 – 11.** As you have been reading through these chapters you have probably already seen that Romans 9 – 11 actually defines some of the terms we encountered at the end of Romans 8, in verses 28 – 33. Therefore, we'll go back and mark the same words in those verses to match the way we mark them in Romans 9 – 11. Marking these significant terms helps us to see the ideas in all three chapters, but beginning in Romans 8, that illustrate God's foreknowledge of who He has predestined and elected to call as His own. Using the previous method of writing these terms on a note card with the mark you have determined to use for each word, and then running that card along under the printed text:

### **Mark these terms in Romans 9 – 11, as well as in Romans 8: 28 - 33:**

- foreknew (found in Romans 8:29 and 11:2 only)
- predestined (found in Romans 8:29, 30 only, but defined in entirety of Romans 9 – 11)
- election (chosen, elect, choosing)
- called (call, callings, reckoned [9:7])

### **Mark these terms in Romans 9 - 11, and in other given verses as well:**

- saved (save, salvation)--go back and mark it the same way in Romans 1: 16; 5: 9, 10; and 8:24, or carry forward your same mark if you marked this previously
- mercy—also mark in Romans 12:1, 8; 15:9
- hardened (hardening)
- unbelief
- promise (covenant)--if you marked this as a significant word in your chapter study of Chapter 4, use the same mark which you used in Romans 4:13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21—if not go back and mark these verses the same as you mark in this section. Mark also in Romans 15:8.

**If you don't get this all done this week, don't despair. We'll start next week's study by finishing this same assignment. It is essential to lay the groundwork before we begin our chapter studies so we interpret the scriptures in context.**

# Overview to prepare to study: Establishing context

## Week #3

### Examining Romans 9 – 16

**Day One:** As with each and every day of study, even what seems to be just preparatory to study, pray for the Lord to enlighten your heart to understand His Word. Take the time to complete any of the assignment from last week which you were not able to finish. This lays the groundwork for the chapter study, which we'll begin next week. If you finished this last week, move on to tomorrow's assignment so you have more time for it.

**Mark these terms in Romans 9 – 11, as well as in Romans 8: 28 - 33:**

- foreknew (found in Romans 8:29 and 11:2 only)
- predestined (found in Romans 8:29, 30 only, but defined in entirety of Romans 9 – 11)
- election (chosen, elect, choosing)
- called (call, callings, reckoned [9:7])

**Mark these terms in Romans 9 - 11 only, and in other given verses as well:**

- saved (save, salvation)--go back and mark it the same way in Romans 1: 16; 5: 9, 10; and 8:24, or carry forward your same mark if you marked this previously
- mercy—also mark in Romans 12:1, 8; 15:9
- hardened (hardening)
- unbelief
- promise (covenant)--if you marked this as a significant word in your chapter study of Chapter 4, use the same mark which you used in Romans 4:13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21—if not go back and mark these verses the same as you mark in this section. Mark also in Romans 15:8.

**If you did not study Romans last year, it is essential that you get this step done:** Mark the significant words for the entire book of Romans in Romans 9 – 16 only. Those words are: **gospel, righteous (-ness), faith (trust, believe), justification (justly, justified, just), and law.**

**Day Two & Three:** As with each and every day of study, even what seems to be just preparatory to study, pray for the Lord to enlighten your heart to understand His Word. The rest of this week we will be completing some assignments which help us establish context in order to avoid misinterpretation. Look ahead at these assignments, and divide them up in any way that suits your study schedule. We need to determine how these key terms are used in other places in Romans, and throughout this section of Chapters 9 – 11, in order to make correct interpretation when we study each chapter individually. You marked these words last week and yesterday:

- foreknew (found in Romans 8:29 and 11:2 only)
- predestined (found in Romans 8:29, 30 only, but defined in entirety of Romans 9 – 11)

Because we studied these in detail last year, in order to help those who are just joining us in Romans this year, the definitions we gave you for these terms last year in the study material are given here. These definitions are from “The Complete Word Study New Testament”, edited by Spiros Zodhiates, Th.D., AMG Publishers:

**“foreknew”** – *proginosko* – Strong’s #4267 – to perceive or recognize beforehand, to know previously, foreknow the relative of time being given in the context; to know before, whether a person (Acts 26:8) or a thing (2 Peter 3:17); to foreknow with approbation, to approve beforehand or make a previous choice of a peculiar people (1 Peter 1:20; Romans 8:29). To ordain before, to foreordain (1 Peter 1:20). In Romans 8:29, it occurs with the verb *proorizo* (Strong’s #4309), did predestinate (next word below). This foreknowledge and foreordination in the Scripture is always unto salvation and not unto perdition. Therefore, it could be said that the Lord never foreordains anyone to be lost, but those who are saved as a result of their exercise of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ were known ahead of time and thus chosen unto God (see Hosea 13:5; Amos 3:2; Matt. 7:23; John 10: 14; Romans 11:2; 2 Corinthians 8:3; Galatians 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:19). The word “knowing” here denotes a previous uniting of oneself with someone. The divine knowledge and divine predestination of Romans 8:29 is coincident and present in the mind and will of God prior to its manifestation in history, resulting in salvation and not in condemnation. The salvation of every believer is known and determined in the mind of God before its actual accomplishment in an historical setting. Thus *proginosko*, to foreknow, corresponds with having been chosen before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4) and always precedes *proorizo* (Strong’s #4309), which means foreordain (NIV-predestine—word we are examining next). *Proginosko* essentially includes a determining on God’s part to fellowship with believers (Romans 8:29), with whom God had beforehand entered into fellowship.

**“predestined” (see above for more details)** -- v. 29, 30, *proorizo* – Strong’s #4309 – to determine or decree beforehand (Acts 4:28; Romans 8: 29, 30; 1 Corinthians 2:7; Ephesians 1: 5, 11). It is a word that has caused a great deal of division within the Christian church, as if it attributed to God absolute and capricious determination of who would be saved and who would not. A careful examination of each instance of its occurrence is important.

1. In 1 Corinthians 2:7 it has a thing as its object; namely the wisdom of God
2. In Acts 8:28, the verb is followed by the infinitive *genestha* (Strong’s #1096), to be done. Here reference is made to the actions of Herod & Pontius Pilate in regard to the crucifixion of Jesus

Christ as doing only what God knew and permitted them to do. This concerns Jesus Christ and His position in history in that it was not of man but of God

3. In Romans 8:29 it is used with the personal object, the relative pronoun *hous* (Strong's #3739), whom, in the plural. This personal pronoun applies also to the previous verb *proegno* (#4267), foreknew. The translation is, "for those (whom) God foreknew He also predestined." The purpose of the foreordination (predestination) is expressed in the phrase, "to be conformed to the image of His Son."
4. In Ephesians 1:5 the purpose of the foreordination (predestination) is the adoption, which means the placing of those who were born of God into their proper position (*huiiothesia* [Strong's #5206], which is from *huios*, [Strong's #5207], son, and the verb *tithemi* [Strong's #5087], to place). This is not condemnatory, but rather beneficial for the believer.
5. In Ephesians 1:11, 12 it is used again and the purpose of it is explained in verse 12 by the infinitive, "that we should be to the praise of His glory" *eis to einai*, that is "for the purpose of being..." This purpose is benevolent.

**Now take the time to make a detailed list of everything you notice in the Romans 8:29 and 11:2 about the word "foreknew".**

**Next make a detailed list of everything you notice about the word "predestined" in Romans 8: 29 and 30.**

Romans 9 – 11 contains a detailed explanation or treatise, with supporting evidence, actually defining and explaining what predestination and foreknowledge mean and how they work in God's providence. **Spend these two days going through this entire section (Romans 9 – 11) and list or record all that you learn about foreknowledge and predestination, according to their definition, even if the exact word is not used in the text.** Be very thorough, as this will help avoid misinterpretation when we work through our chapter studies. Note the verse reference of each fact you record. You can mark right into the text to draw attention to each point with arrows, marks, or highlights if you prefer to study this way. Adapt this assignment to your preferred method of study. **Mark, write, list, or outline everything you learn about predestination and God's foreknowledge in Romans 8:29, 30 and Romans 9 – 11. Spend today and tomorrow on this assignment.**

**Day Four:** You also marked these words in Romans 8: 28 – 33, and in Romans 9 – 11 last week and at the beginning of this week. We have already looked specifically at the definition of "called" last year. Believers are people who have been called "according to God's purpose", as we discovered last year. These definitions are reprinted for you on the next page. We have not examined the definitions of "election" or "saved", "salvation" in our study yet, so we will wait to examine those definitions when we get to the chapter study.

- election (chosen, elect, choosing)
- called (call, callings, reckoned [9:7])

- saved (save, salvation)--go back and mark it the same way in Romans 1: 16; 5: 9, 10; and 8:24, or carry forward your same mark if you marked this previously

**“called”** – *kletos* – Strong’s #2822 – those who are the called have been continually called, even before they knew they were being called, and are still continually the “called – invited, appointed, welcomed. The called ones are those who have received the divine call (*klesis*, Strong’s #2821), having conformed to God’s saving purpose (Romans 1:6, 7; 8:28; 1 Corinthians 1: 2, 24), without implying immediate obedience to the call (Matt. 20:16; 22:14; Rev. 17:14). See *elektos* (Strong’s #1588), elect.”

Those who love God are called in the direction of His purpose, through His purpose, towards His purpose.

**“purpose”** – *prothesis*—(Strong’s #4286) – A setting forth, an exposition. It involves purpose, resolve, design. A putting forth to view or to openly display. A thought or purpose (Acts 11:23; 27:13). When used of the purpose of God it refers exclusively to salvation (2 Timothy 1:9). Therefore, in Romans 8:28, “those who are the called according to His purpose” (*kata prothesin*) must be taken as synonymous with *eudokeo* (Strong’s #2107), good will, good pleasure, indicating that “those who are the called” are called because of God’s good pleasure and not because they deserve it (Ephesians 1: 8, 9). A predetermination, purpose, intent, design of God in calling men in general, Gentiles as well as Jews, to salvation (Romans 8:28); of gathering together all things in Christ (Ephesians 1: 9 – 11); of making the Gentiles fellow heirs with the Jews of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ by the Gospel (Ephesians 3: 6, 11; 2 Timothy 1:9); in choosing one nation rather than another to enjoy certain privileges and blessings (Romans 9:11). All these passages are applied to the purpose of God in the New Testament.

“Called” was also translated from this Greek word. Given below is the other definition we discovered last year, as well as what we learned “justified” and “glorified” meant.

**“called”** – *kaleo* – Strong’s #2564—to “call”, with a personal object, to call anyone, invite (Matthew 20:8; 25:14); of the divine invitation to participate in the blessings of redemption (Romans 8:30; 1 Corinthians 1:9; Hebrews 9:15); to name; in the passive, to be called by name. It suggests either vocation or destination.

**“justified”** – *dikaioo*—Strong’s #1344—Verbs which end in –oo generally mean to bring out that which a person is or that which is desired. To justify someone means to bring out the fact that he is just or to make him just without necessarily referring to how he is made just. In the New Testament the verb *dikaioo*, to justify, never means to make someone righteous by doing away with his violation of law by himself bearing the condemnation of the imposed sentence. In the New Testament man, in his fallen condition, can never do anything in order to pay for his sinfulness and thus be liberated from the sentence of guilt that is upon him, as may be done in a legal system. In the New Testament *dikaioo* in the active tense (as here) means to recognize, to set forth as righteous, to justify, first of all as a judicial act...The New Testament tells how being justified by God and declared just before Him are achieved in the lives of men. We are justified before God by Christ through grace (Galatians 2:16; 3:11; Titus 3:6, 7). When one received Christ, he recognizes God’s right over him. His justification simultaneously performs a miracle in him and changes his character. He does not then obey God because he is afraid of the consequences, but because of His grace in Christ which has changed his character and made him just. When one becomes a child of God, he exercises rights toward god and acts as His child. He is thus

liberated from the guilt and power of sin, but not from the presence of sin. That will come later (Romans 8:23).

**“glorified”** – doxazo – Strong’s #1392—to glorify, to recognize, honor, praise (Matthew 6:2; Luke 4:15; Romans 11:13); to bring to honor, (strictly to give anyone importance), make glorious, glorify (1 Corinthians 12:26; Hebrews 5:5; 1 Peter 1:8)

Every one of these verbs in Romans 8: 30 (predestined, called, justified, glorified) is written in the original language in a way that indicates a definite action accomplished by God which happened or was determined at a specific point of time in the past. Each verb asserts, or indicates these actions as a fact. Even though we haven’t experienced some of these events yet personally doesn’t change the fact that God has determined these events in the past, and what God determines *will* come to pass. Our glorification with Him, for instance, is not personally experienced by us yet even though we are in Christ (see Ephesians 2:4 – 7). Neither do we experience yet the full effect of our legal justification, when we are not only declared righteous, but are actually free from the sinful nature’s presence when we leave our bodies and are in His presence.

#### **Assignment to complete for Day Four:**

**Now make a list, or record, every detail you notice about “call”, “called”, “calls”, “calling”, “reckoned (9:7)” and also of “chosen”, “elect”, “election”, “choosing” in Romans 8:28 – 33, and in all of Romans 9 – 11. Be sure to record verse references.**

**Make a list or record every detail you notice about each use of “save”, “saved”, or “salvation” in Romans 1: 16; 5: 9, 10; and 8:24 and in all of Romans 9 – 11. Record verse references.**

**Day Five:** You marked these words in all of Romans 9 – 11, and in specific other verses last week and at the beginning of this week:

- mercy—also mark in Romans 12:1, 8; 15:9
- hardened (hardening)
- unbelief
- promise (covenant)--if you marked this as a significant word in your chapter study of Chapter 4, use the same mark which you used in Romans 4:13, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21—if not go back and mark these verses the same as you mark in this section. Mark also in Romans 15:8.

**Finish this week’s assignment by making a list of all the details and facts you learn about each of these words, as recorded in all of Romans 9 – 11, as well as in the other verses given for each word. Be sure to record verse references.**

Before going into our chapter studies, we will take one more week to lay the groundwork for an understanding of God’s sovereignty since this entire section deals with it.

# Preparing to study Romans 9 - 11

## Week #4

### Laying the groundwork for an understanding of God's sovereignty

The people in Rome to whom Paul wrote were well-versed in the Old Testament scriptures. This is evident by the amount of quotation of Old Testament facts and accounts which he uses in this letter, and many points he makes specifically for the Jewish believers there. They would have had a solid understanding of God's sovereignty over all the people and events which Paul mentions. In order to lay a similar groundwork of understanding, we will take this week to examine some Old Testament passages that help us understand what God rules over, and how far His sovereignty extends. We will finish by examining some New Testament passages. Then next week we'll move into an in-depth chapter study of Romans 9.

#### Day #1: God's Sovereignty (OT & NT)

Examine each of these passages, which are reprinted for you, and write what God rules over in the space provided, or record this in your notebook.

**Daniel 4: 34, 35 (NIV):**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as He pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back His hand or say to Him: "What have You done?"

**Daniel 4:17 (NIV), from Nebuchadnezzar's dream:**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

"The decision is announced by messengers, the holy ones declare the verdict, so that the living may know that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone He wishes and sets them over the lowliest of men."

**Isaiah 14: 24, 27 (NIV)**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand. (prophecy against Assyria follows, v. 25-26) For the Lord Almighty has purposed, and who can thwart Him? His hand is stretched out, and who can turn it back?"

**Lamentations 3: 37, 38 (NIV)**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_

37 Who can speak and have it happen  
if the Lord has not decreed it?

38 Is it not from the mouth of the Most High  
that both calamities and good things come?

**Psalms 103: 19 (NIV)**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all.

**Job 1:6 - 2:10 (NIV)**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6 One day the angels <sup>[a]</sup> came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan <sup>[b]</sup> also came with them. 7 The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

**8** Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

**9** "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. **10** "Have You not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. **11** But stretch out Your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

**12** The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger."

Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

**13** One day when Job's sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, **14** a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, **15** and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

**16** While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

**17** While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

**18** While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, "Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother's house, **19** when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!"

**20** At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship **21** and said:

"Naked I came from my mother's womb,  
and naked I will depart. <sup>[c]</sup>  
The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away;  
may the name of the LORD be praised."

**22** In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

**(continues on next page)**

## Job 2

**1** On another day the angels <sup>[d]</sup> came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before Him. **2** And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?"

Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it."

**3** Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited Me against him to ruin him without any reason."

**4** "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. **5** But stretch out Your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse You to Your face."

**6** The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life."

**7** So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. **8** Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes.

**9** His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

**10** He replied, "You are talking like a foolish <sup>[e]</sup> woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?"

In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

### Footnotes:

- a. [Job 1:6](#) Hebrew *the sons of God*
- b. [Job 1:6](#) *Satan* means *accuser* .
- c. [Job 1:21](#) *Or will return there*
- d. [Job 2:1](#) Hebrew *the sons of God*
- e. [Job 2:10](#) The Hebrew word rendered *foolish* denotes moral deficiency.

## Luke 22: 31-32 (NIV)

### What God rules over:

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<sup>31</sup>"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. <sup>32</sup>But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers."

## Day #2: God's Sovereignty (OT & NT)

Examine each of these passages, which are reprinted for you, and write what God rules over in the space provided, or record this in your notebook.

### Isaiah 46: 8 – 11 (NIV)

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

<sup>8</sup> "Remember this, fix it in mind,  
take it to heart, you rebels.

<sup>9</sup> Remember the former things, those of long ago;  
I am God, and there is no other;  
I am God, and there is none like Me.

<sup>10</sup> I make known the end from the beginning,  
from ancient times, what is still to come.  
I say: My purpose will stand,  
and I will do all that I please.

<sup>11</sup> From the east I summon a bird of prey;  
from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose.  
What I have said, that will I bring about;  
what I have planned, that will I do.

**Daniel 2:20 – 23 (NIV) records Daniel's prayer when asking God to let him know what Nebuchadnezzar's dream was, and the interpretation of it. Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah were also praying with him for God's mercy in the matter since they and all the wise men of Babylon would be killed if no one could tell Nebuchadnezzar the dream and its interpretation:**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>19b</sup> Then Daniel praised the God of heaven

20 and said:

"Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;  
wisdom and power are His.

21 He changes times and seasons;  
He sets up kings and deposes them.  
He gives wisdom to the wise  
and knowledge to the discerning.

22 He reveals deep and hidden things;  
He knows what lies in darkness,  
and light dwells with Him.

23 I thank and praise You, O God of my fathers:  
You have given me wisdom and power,  
You have made known to me what we asked of You,  
You have made known to us the dream of the king."

### Isaiah 5: 1 – 7 (NIV)

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**God carried out judgment like this twice against Israel, three times if you count the northern kingdom as well. The first attack, destruction, death and carrying off into captivity was for rejection of Him. He used the tool of the Assyrians in the northern kingdom and the tool of Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians in the southern kingdom. The second attack, destruction, death, and carrying off into captivity was for the rejection of His Son. He used Titus and the Romans as His tool this time.**

1 I will sing for the one I love  
a song about His vineyard:  
My loved one had a vineyard  
on a fertile hillside.

2 He dug it up and cleared it of stones  
and planted it with the choicest vines.  
He built a watchtower in it  
and cut out a winepress as well.

Then He looked for a crop of good grapes,  
but it yielded only bad fruit.

3 "Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and men of Judah,  
judge between Me and My vineyard.

4 What more could have been done for My vineyard  
than I have done for it?  
When I looked for good grapes,  
why did it yield only bad?

5 Now I will tell you  
what I am going to do to My vineyard:  
I will take away its hedge,  
and it will be destroyed;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it will be trampled.

6 I will make it a wasteland,  
neither pruned nor cultivated,  
and briars and thorns will grow there.  
I will command the clouds  
not to rain on it."

7 The vineyard of the LORD Almighty  
is the house of Israel,  
and the men of Judah  
are the garden of His delight.  
And He looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;  
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

**Deuteronomy 32:39 (NIV):**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_

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39 "See now that I myself am He!  
There is no god besides Me.  
I put to death and I bring to life,  
I have wounded and I will heal,  
and no one can deliver out of My hand.

**1 Samuel 2: 6 – 9a (NIV):**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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6 "The LORD brings death and makes alive;  
He brings down to the grave <sup>[a]</sup> and raises up.

7 The LORD sends poverty and wealth;  
He humbles and he exalts.

8 He raises the poor from the dust  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap;  
He seats them with princes  
and has them inherit a throne of honor.  
"For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's;  
upon them He has set the world.

9a He will guard the feet of His saints,  
but the wicked will be silenced in darkness.

**Footnotes:**

a. [1 Samuel 2:6](#) Hebrew *Sheol*

**2 Samuel 16: 5 – 11 (NIV):** written about David as he was driven out of Jerusalem by his son Absalom's rebellion, a result of the period of sin in David's life, and a consequence predicted by Nathan the prophet

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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5 As King David approached Bahurim, a man from the same clan as Saul's family came out from there. His name was Shimei son of Gera, and he cursed as he came out. 6 He pelted David and all the king's officials with stones, though all the troops and the special guard were on David's right and left. 7 As he cursed, Shimei said, "Get out, get out, you man of blood, you scoundrel! 8 The LORD has repaid you for all the blood you shed in the household of Saul, in whose place you have reigned. The LORD has handed the kingdom over to your son Absalom. You have come to ruin because you are a man of blood!"

9 Then Abishai son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Let me go over and cut off his head."

10 But the king said, "What do you and I have in common, you sons of Zeruiah? If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, 'Curse David,' who can ask, 'Why do you do this?'"

11 David then said to Abishai and all his officials, "My son, who is of my own flesh, is trying to take my life. How much more, then, this Benjamite! Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to. 12 It may be that the LORD will see my distress and repay me with good for the cursing I am receiving today."

**Isaiah 45: 5 – 7 (NIV), a prophecy concerning a pagan king, Cyrus of Persia, prophesied about 200 years before Cyrus lived and came into power during the captivity of the Jews in Babylon**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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5 I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
apart from Me there is no God.  
I will strengthen you,  
though you have not acknowledged Me,

6 so that from the rising of the sun  
to the place of its setting  
men may know there is none besides Me.  
I am the LORD, and there is no other.

7 I form the light and create darkness,  
I bring prosperity and create disaster;  
I, the LORD, do all these things.

**John 19: 10 – 11 (NIV):**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>10</sup>"Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

<sup>11</sup>Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

**Matthew 18:7 (NIV)—note how this verse makes clear that though God is sovereign, man is still responsible for his actions:**

<sup>7</sup>"Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Such things must come, but woe to the man through whom they come!

### **Day #3: God's Sovereignty (OT)**

Examine each of these chapters about Joseph's life; some key passages are reprinted for you on the next page. As you read each chapter, write in the space provided, or in your notebook, what God rules over in order to bring about His intended results for Joseph and his entire extended family, the descendants of Israel.

**The circumstances of Joseph's life: Genesis 37, 39 – 45, 50: 15 – 21**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Genesis 45: 4 – 11 (NIV)

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because **it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you.** <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will not be plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> **But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.**

<sup>8</sup> "So then, **it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.** <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.'

### Genesis 50: 15 – 21 (NIV)

<sup>15</sup> When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" <sup>16</sup> So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: <sup>17</sup> 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

<sup>18</sup> His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

<sup>19</sup> But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup> **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.** <sup>21</sup> So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

### Day #4: God's Sovereignty (NT)

Examine the following passage from Ephesians. It is reprinted for you in a format that allows you to mark the text the way we have been marking Romans in our working copy. Examine it thoroughly, marking grammatical phrases, and looking up key words, comparing what you see here to what we learned in Romans 8: 26 – 39. Write what God rules over in the space provided, or record this in your notebook.

## Ephesians 1: 3 – 14 (NIV)

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_

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3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. 4For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love 5He<sup>d</sup> predestined us to be adopted as His sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will— 6to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves. 7In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace 8that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. 9And He<sup>d</sup> made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ, 10to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

11In Him we were also chosen,<sup>e</sup> having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will, 12in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of His glory. 13And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.

### Footnotes:

- c. [Ephesians 1:5](#) Or sight in love. 5 He
- d. [Ephesians 1:9](#) Or us. With all wisdom and understanding, 9 he
- e. [Ephesians 1:11](#) Or were made heirs

## Day #4: God's Sovereignty (NT)

Now re-examine Romans 8: 26 – 39 specifically to notice what it tells us that God is sovereign over. Write what God rules over in the space provided, or record this in your notebook.

**Romans 8: 26 – 39 (NIV):**

**What God rules over:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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<sup>26</sup>In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. <sup>27</sup>And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.

<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him,<sup>[a]</sup> who<sup>[b]</sup> have been called according to His purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup>And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is He that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:  
"For Your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered."<sup>[c]</sup>

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,<sup>[d]</sup> neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Footnotes:**

- a. [Romans 8:28](#) Some manuscripts And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God
- b. [Romans 8:28](#) Or works together with those who love him to bring about what is good—with those who
- c. [Romans 8:36](#) Psalm 44:22
- d. [Romans 8:38](#) Or nor heavenly rulers

**Final assignment of Overview preparation:** Now in order to prepare yourself to begin the in-depth study of Romans 9 – 11, **re-read all of Romans 9 – 11, keeping in mind all you have learned this week about God’s sovereignty and rule over all things.** Next week as we begin our chapter study of Chapter 9 we will examine how this relates to election.