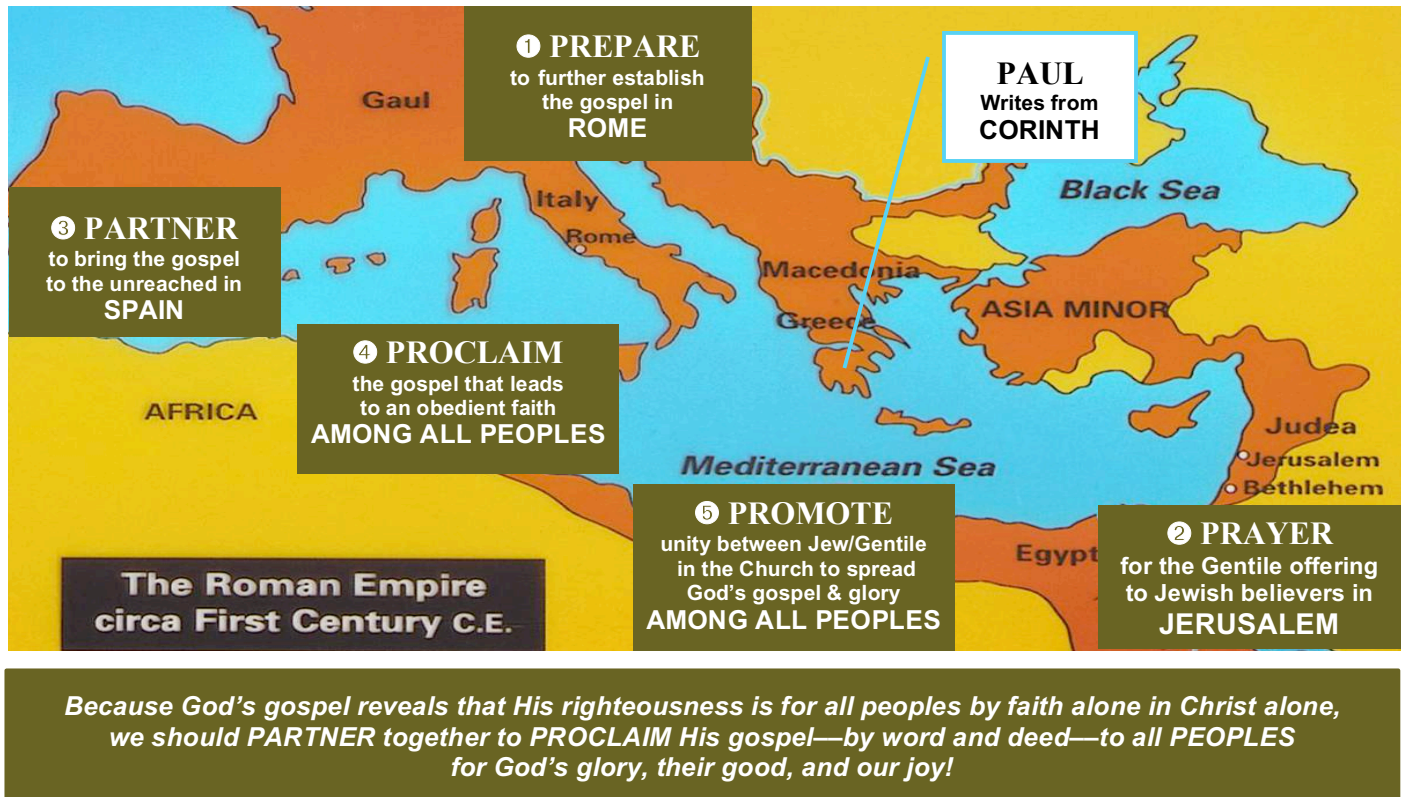




Megathemes in the Book of Romans (Especially Chapters 9-11)

Lesson 4

What's the Big Idea of the Book of Romans?



What Are the Megathemes of the Book of Romans—Especially Chapters 9-11?

Megatheme 1 Romans *exalts* the glory God's MAJESTY.

- 1) Romans is basically a book about GOD!
- 2) Romans is a GOD-CENTERED book that requires God-centered thinking and calls for God-centered living.
- 3) **CHAPTERS 9-11** exalt the glory of God's majesty like no other part of the book—one way to summarize **CHAPTER 9** is: *The MAJESTY of DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY!* (9:14-18; 11:33-36)

WORD FREQUENCY in Romans

GOD—153x
LAW—72x
CHRIST—65x
SIN—48x
LORD—43x

"Romans may truly be described in a way that no other book can be, as a book about God. It is perhaps this that gives it its importance and its appeal." ~Leon Morris

Megatheme 2 Romans **explains** the good news of God's **MESSAGE**.

- 1) The gospel message is **EVERYTHING** to Paul—it is his message, his ministry, his mission, his mandate! Romans 1:15-17
- 2) The gospel message is what **DIVIDES** the saved from the lost and what **UNITES** all of the true people of God together—cutting through all secondary differences of gender, race, personality, background, and culture.
- 3) **CHAPTERS 9-11** reveal **how** the Jews **rejection** of the gospel message has led to the salvation of the Gentiles and **how** the **reception** of this message by the Gentiles does not mean God has **rejected** the nation of Israel completely or ultimately! (9:3; 10:8-13, 15-17; 11:28)

Megatheme 3 Romans **expands** the reach of God's **MISSION**.

- 1) **CHAPTERS 9-11** shows us that a high view of God's majesty does not mean we should **NEGLECT** sharing the gospel message or sending out missionaries!
- 2) **CHAPTERS 9-11** expands the reach of God's mission as much as Chapters 15-16 do—one way to summarize **CHAPTER 10** is: **The MESSAGE & MISSION of HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY!** (10:11-15)

Megatheme 4 Romans **exults** in the hope of God's **MERCY**.

- 1) How could it be otherwise? Romans 1–3; 12:1

"Man's only righteousness is the mercy of God in Christ, when it is offered by the Gospel and received by faith." ~John Calvin

- 2) **CHAPTERS 9-11** will lead us to exult in the hope of God's mercy like no others—one way to summarize **CHAPTER 11** is: **The MYSTERY of GOD'S MERCY!** (11:29-36; 15:9-12)

"We shall misunderstand these chapters, if we fail to recognize that their key-word is 'mercy'" ~C. E. B. Cranfield

- 3) In His sovereign majesty, God chooses to establish a mission of mercy to save all peoples...**BUT HOW IS HE DOING IT?**

MegaTheme 5 Romans **explores** the wonder of God's **MYSTERY**.

- 1) What "mystery" does **not** mean...
- 2) What "mystery" **does** mean... Romans 16:25-27; 11:25-26
 - Something that God has **KEPT HIDDEN** in the past from all people.
 - Something that God has **NOW REVEALED** through his apostles and prophets in the NT.
 - Something God wants to be **MADE KNOWN** to all peoples by the preaching of the gospel to all peoples.
- 3) What is the "mystery" that God has now made known? Colossians 1:24-29; Ephesians 3:1-12, 20-21
 - The mystery is revealed as Christ **IN** us (Jew/Gentile), the hope of glory, and us (Jew/Gentile) **IN** Christ as one Body, the Church, by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
 - **The MYSTERY is this...** God the Father's sovereign, eternal choice to redeem many out of all peoples by grace through faith in Jesus Christ that is now being made known to the entire universe (seen and unseen) through the preaching of the gospel to all peoples for the uniting of Jew and Gentile into one Body, the Church (universal and local), by the indwelling of God the Spirit under the universal lordship of God the Son.

- 4) **CHAPTERS 9-11** explores the wonder of God's mystery in saving all peoples—one way to summarize Chapters 9-11 is...

The Mystery of God's Majestic Mission of Mercy			
TOPICS	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	Chapter 11
God	His Merciful Majesty	His Missional Message	His Merciful Mystery
Focus	Divine Sovereignty	Human Responsibility	Glorious Solidarity
Israel	Israel's Past Election	Israel's Present Rejection	Israel's Future Salvation
Questions & Objections	<i>Has God's Promises Failed? Is God Unjust in Electing People? Why Does God Still Find Fault?</i>	<i>How Did Pagan Gentiles Receive What Was Promised to Chosen Israel? How Did Zealous Israel Miss Out?</i>	<i>Is God's Rejection of Israel Total & Final? Is There No Hope for Israel's Hard Heart? Who Can Ever Figure All This Out?</i>
Paul	His Personal Pain over Israel <i>Heavy Burden (9:1-5)</i>	His Passionate Prayer for Israel <i>Heart Belief (10:1)</i>	His Positive Proof to Israel <i>Hope-filled Blessings (11:1)</i>
Key	God's Sovereign Majesty <i>in Election</i>	God's Sending Mission <i>in Proclamation</i>	God's Saving Mercy <i>in Salvation</i>

