

The Bible: The Story of the Gospel

Romans 15:14-24

Introduction

1. At the end of Romans (Rom.15:16-17), and just before the final greetings, Paul purposefully makes a reference to the end of Isaiah's prophecy (Is.66:19-20).
 1. Isaiah is an 8th Century B.C. prophecy, with God declaring what will happen in the future
 2. Romans (written after the life and death of Jesus), is something of a summary of the Christian faith
2. Isaiah and Romans are very similar in content, despite the differences in time, format and nature.
3. Isaiah is a prophecy about future crucial events relating to the Christian Gospel; and Romans covers the remarkable fulfillment of much of that prophecy (the Gospel).

1. "A Comparison of the Content of Isaiah and Romans" (Outline)

2. God's remarkable revelation of Himself in the Bible

1. The Bible: Two sections (OT and NT) but one Bible

2. The Bible contains one foundational truth—the Gospel (Genesis chapters 1-3)

In the beginning, God (One God) (Gen.1). The plurality within the Godhead—"us" "our" (Gen.1:26). The Spirit of God (Gen.1:2), and, who is the "offspring/seed" of the woman who will destroy Satan? (Jesus?). And, who is addressing Satan in Gen.3:15? (the Father?) (Gen.3:15).

The sovereignty of God in creating the world out of nothing (Gen.1-2).

The dignity of the human being made in God's image (Gen.1); the covenant of works that God made with humanity (Gen.2:16-17); humanity given the responsibility of work and management of God's creation (Gen.1); marriage (Gen.2).

The fall (Gen.3); the principle of representation (Gen.3); our bias against God (our naturally hiding from Him) (Gen.3); our inability to acknowledge personal sin (Gen.3); judgment—death and hardship as a consequence of sin (Gen.3).

The pathetic attempt to save ourselves—fig leaves (Gen.3:7); the covenant promise of a Messiah (Gen.3:15); the means through which God's justice is satisfied and our sins forgiven—the covering of skin provided by God (Gen.3:21).

Future hope—the naming of Eve, meaning "lifegiver" (Gen.3:20); salvation by God's grace and faith alone in the "Offspring/Seed" alone (Gen.3).

New world order as Satan is destroyed and the curse reversed (Gen.3:15)

3. The progressive revelation of the Gospel truth through the Bible

1. Genesis Chapters 1-3
2. Isaiah Chapters 1-66
3. The NT.

4. The Gospel: One Author—One God

5. The Gospel (Bible) is unique in being based on historical objective evidence, thereby enabling us to evaluate its credibility

3. Evangelism

1. The state of affairs
2. God has ordained that salvation will only take place through the Gospel being communicated (1Cor.1:22-24)

Conclusion (Col.4:2-6)

A Consideration of the Supernatural Events in Isaiah and Romans—the Gospel

A. Prophecy of Isaiah (8th Century B.C.) (Key Gospel elements regrouped in a systematic format)

1. Sinfulness of all of humanity (Jews: Is.1:2-15; Gentiles: Is. chapters 13-23)
2. God's judgment of all of humanity due to sin (Is.24:1-13; 26:20-27:1; 34:1-4; 63:1-6)
3. Prophecy about the coming Saviour (Messiah/Christ):
 1. One God (Is.45:21-22). Father is God (Is.48:16; 61:1). Jesus is God (Is.6:1; see Jn.12:41; Is.7:14; 9:6-7; 11:1-10; Is.42:1-4. The Spirit is God (Is.63:10; 61:1). Reference to a plurality within the Godhead—"Us" Is.6:8. Strong hint of the Trinity (Is.48:16).
 2. His being "given" to us by the Father (Is.9:6; see Jn.6:38,39,44,57)
 3. Why He "given"? Unmerited kindness, love, mercy (Is.54:8; 63:7; 16:5; 38:17; 54:10; 63:9)
 4. His miraculous virgin birth (Is.7:14)
 5. His being fully man and fully God (Is 9:6)
 6. His human lineage (Is.9:7b; 11:1,10) and His initial area of ministry "Galilee" (Is.9:1)
 7. His eternal, sovereign Kingship and Kingdom (Is.9:6-7): He is the "Shoot" and "Root of Jesse" (Is.11:1,10. See Jn.1:15).
 8. The nature of His Person (His being the "Light," in contrast to darkness-evil) (Is.9:2)
 9. The covenant God made with His people (Is.24:5; 42:6; 54:10; 56:6; 59:21)
 10. The Messiah will bring salvation to the Gentiles (Is.2:2-3; 11:10-12; 42:6; 49:6; 51:4-6)
 11. The basis by which a just God can forgive sins—Substitution by God (Is.52:13-53:12)
 12. Salvation: Repentance necessary (Is.6:10; 19:22; 45:22; 55:7; 59:2,12-13,20)
 13. The means whereby we are saved—faith/grace (Is.12:2; 25:9; 26:2,4; 30:15; 43:10; 55:7)
 14. The bodily resurrection and eternal life for believers (Is.26:19; 25:6-9)
 15. The future New Heavens and New Earth (Is.7:7; 11:6-9; 65:17-25; 66:22)
 16. Hell for those who reject God (Is.50:11; 66:24. See Mk.9:43-48)
4. Response—evangelism. The necessity of proclaiming the Gospel (Is.66:18-24)

B. Romans (The miraculous fulfillment of much of Isaiah in a systematic format)

1. Sinfulness of all of humanity (Gentiles and Jews: Rom.1:18-3:20)
2. God's judgment of all of humanity due to sin (Rom.1:18,20; 2:12; 3:19,23; 5:12-21)
3. Prophecy about the coming Saviour (Messiah/Christ) fulfilled:
 1. "God is One" (Rom.3:30). The Father is God (Rom.15:6). Jesus is God—"Son of God" (Rom.1:1-5,9; 5:10-11; 8:3,29,32; 15:12; the "gospel of God/Christ" Rom.15:16,19). The Spirit is God (Rom.8:3-16,26-27; 15:13)
 2. His being "given" to us by the Father (Rom.8:32)
 3. Why is He "given"? Unmerited kindness, love, mercy (Rom.3:24; 5:15; 2:4; 5:5,8; 8:35,39; 15:30)
 4. No mention of the virgin birth only His miraculous birth (Rom.1:1-4. See too Matt.1:20-23)
 5. His being fully man and fully God (Rom.1:1-4)
 6. His human lineage (Rom.1:1-4). (His initial area of ministry "Galilee" fulfilled Matt.4:13-16)
 7. His eternal (He is the "Shoot" and "Root of Jesse" (Rom.15:12), "Gospel of God/Christ" (Rom.15:16,19); sovereign Kingship (Rom.6:4-5,8; 15:12), and Kingdom (Rom.8:33-39; 9:23)
 8. The nature of His Person (His being the "Light," representing all the blessings He will bring, in contrast to all the works of darkness-evil) (Rom.5:1-2,17; 6:22; 8:12,28-39)
 9. The covenant God made with His people (Rom.1:2; 4:13-14,16,20,21; 9:4,8,9; 11:27;15:8)
 10. The Messiah has come bringing salvation to the Gentiles (Rom.9:24-26; 10:20; 15:11)
 11. The basis by which a just God can forgive sins—Substitution by God (Rom.5:6-8,18-19)
 12. Repentance necessary (Rom.1:5; 2:4; 10:9-10,12; 11:23,30-32. Not repent Rom.1:32; 10:3)
 13. The means whereby we are saved—faith/trust/belief/grace (Rom.3:21-5:2; Rom.9:10-24)
- Events that still to be fulfilled at the Second Coming of Christ:
 14. The spiritual resurrection of believers (Rom.8:22-23; 14:9)
 15. The future New Heavens and New Earth (Rom.8:18-25,30; 5:2; 9:4,23)
 16. Hell for those who reject God (Rom.1:18,20,32; 2:1,2,3,5,8,12; 5:9; 9:22)
4. Response—evangelism. The necessity of proclaiming the Gospel (Rom.15:15-16)