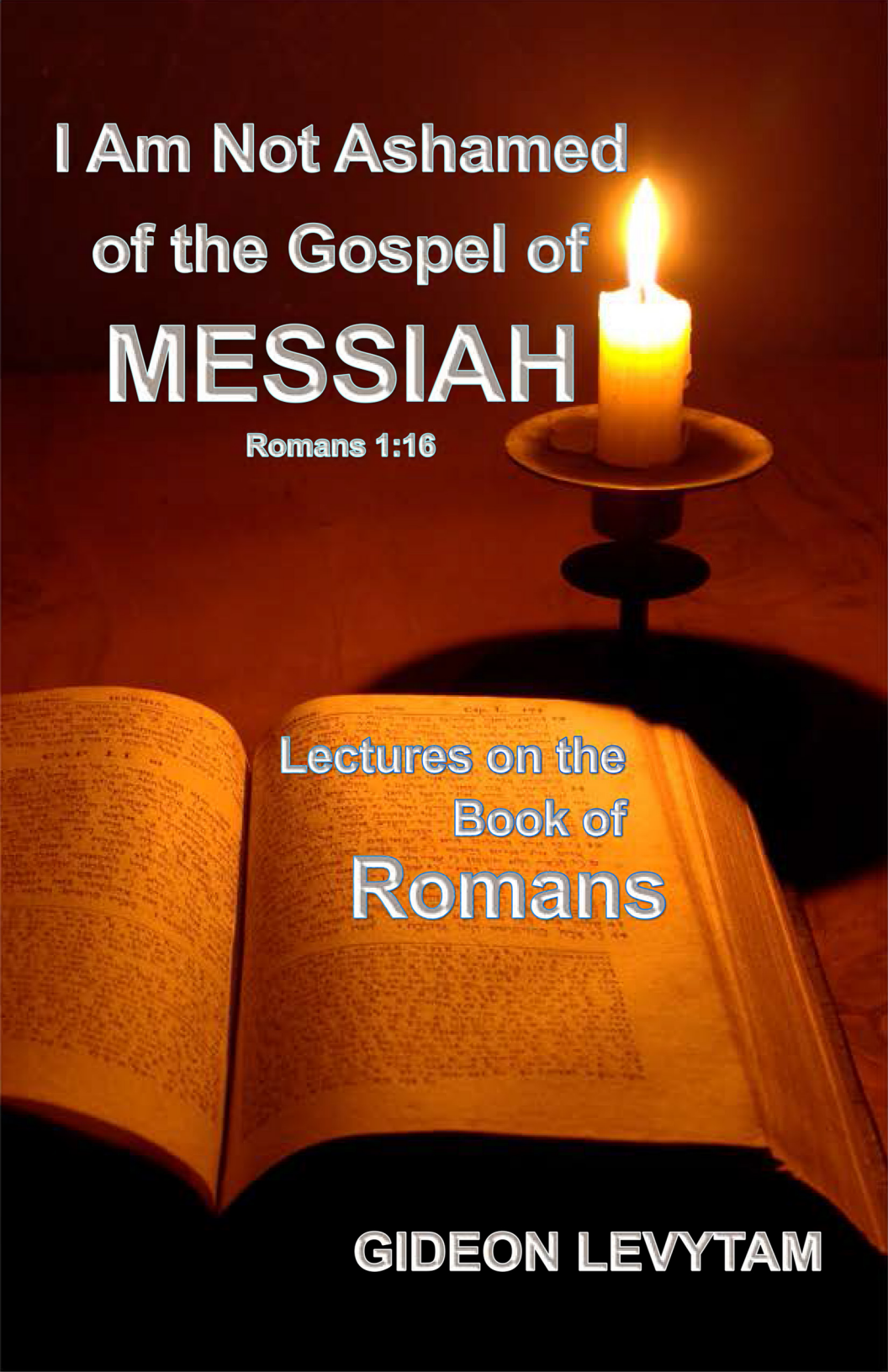


# I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of **MESSIAH**

**Romans 1:16**

The background of the entire image is a warm, orange-toned photograph. In the upper right, a single lit candle sits in a dark, ornate holder, casting a soft glow. Below the candle, an open book lies flat, its pages filled with dense, small text, likely a Bible. The lighting is dramatic, with the candle and the book's pages being the primary light sources against a dark background.

Lectures on the  
Book of  
**Romans**

**GIDEON LEVYTAM**

# **I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of Messiah**



## **Lectures on the Book of ROMANS**

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OF THE GOSPEL OF MESSIAH**



**LECTURES ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS**  
GIDEON LEVYTAM

**2013**

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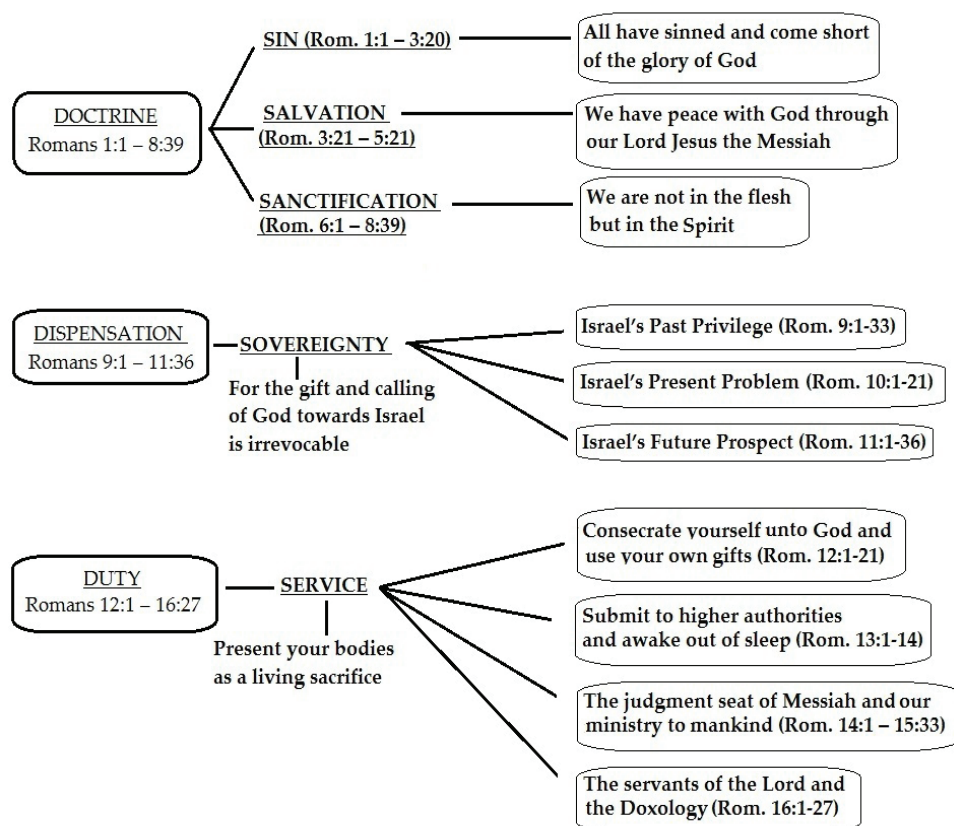
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## CHART ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS



## PREFACE

*I AM NOT ASHAMED OF THE GOSPEL OF MESSIAH* is a transcript of a series of lectures on the study of the book of Romans. These lectures or studies are presented from a Hebrew-Messianic perspective.

The book of Romans is a unique book and it is important that we fully understand it. It is also very important that my Jewish brethren grasp the fundamental truth of our righteous standing before God because of the gospel of our Lord Jesus the Messiah. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 1:16-17 those words: **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”**

I would like to acknowledge and thank those who willingly gave of their time and expertise in making this book possible: Carole Cooksey who worked tirelessly transcribing the lectures from the hours of taped audio messages; Sam Hadley who volunteered to arrange and edit the book; and Eugene Vedder, Alfred Bouter, Ruth Spiering and Shin-Dee Tatiersky in proofreading the final text. Also thanks to Tim Van Ryn for formatting the book, Lu Yang Liu and Carole Cooksey for the illustrations, Larry Rosen for working on the cover, and my dear wife Irene for her loving support.

I trust that these lectures on the book of Romans may be helpful and used of the Lord. To God be the Glory!

— *Gideon Levytam*



## FOREWORD

How wonderful to know the great Creator God of heaven and earth. Just consider the myriads of miracles in His creation, from the galaxies to the tiniest particles. He has created us with an implanted ability to know that God exists and that all human beings are responsible and accountable to Him. However, human history is a history of failure, starting with Adam and Eve and the Fall. Their son Cain killed his own brother, Abel, after which the human race gradually descended into anarchy. After the Flood even Noah failed and the descendants of his three sons soon fell into all kinds of idolatry. Then God called Abram to be a witness to the only and true God and He led him to the Promised Land. About four hundred years later, He brought his descendants there as well, i.e. the family of Jacob, in the days of Moses and Joshua. These descendants also failed, in many different ways.

When the great Creator God came to them in the Person of the Son and walked among them, Israel rejected Him and, together with the whole human race, were responsible for His death on a shameful Roman cross. Yet, despite all these failures, God has had tremendous victories. First in the resurrection of His Son; then in the new testimony that was started at Jerusalem, spreading to Judea, Samaria and Galilee; and then in reaching out to the ends of the world ... And He had the victory when saving us by the precious blood of His dear Son, *Yeshua Ha-Mashiash*. Sadly, the history of all true Bible believers, whether Jewish or non-Jewish, represents much failure.

However, this is not the end of the story! The book before you is a testimony of what God has been doing with His chosen people and with the human race in general and of what, in His sovereign grace, He is also doing today even in the midst of all kinds of failures. I have known the author of this book, *LECTURES*



ON THE BOOK OF ROMANS, for about thirty years. In it he gives his own testimony of how God reached out to him in grace and saved him. Since the time we have worked together in God's vineyard, I have seen Gideon making progress. His present radio ministry with 15-minute broadcasts five days a week, bears that out. In a simple and straightforward way he has presented the teachings of Romans to his listeners and now he does so in written form. Gideon always tries to make things clear, in a God-honoring way, even matters of controversy. He does so with great love to his earthly people Israel and with great love to his fellow-believers in Messiah, whether they are Jewish or not.

As you go through this book you will be edified because God's Word is presented on every page and because of the way Gideon addresses the many issues that Romans brings before us. But you will need the help of the Spirit of God to make them your own, and in this process you will be edified. I close this foreword, which is a recommendation, with one of the apostle Paul's doxologies in Romans: **"For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen"** (Rom 11:36 NKJV). God bless!

— Alfred E. Bouter, Secretary  
"The Holy Scriptures and Israel" Bible Society of Canada  
Vankleek Hill, Ontario, May 2, 2013



## INTRODUCTION

This very interesting and important book of Romans was written by a Jewish man who was zealous for the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. When he heard that some Hebrew Jewish Israelis had come to faith in this Man *Yeshua* the Messiah, he was furious. He was so unhappy about them that he obtained a letter from the high priest in Jerusalem to give him authority to apprehend the believers in *Yeshua* in Damascus and bring his prisoners to be punished at Jerusalem. But as he was traveling to Damascus with his letter, a very strange thing happened to him that would completely transform his life.

Here is the record of that encounter. It says in Acts 9:1-6: **Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.” So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”**

Now Saul (*Shaul* in Hebrew), also called Paul, surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus and was saved. His sins were forgiven; he was justified; he got reconciled; he received the righteousness of God through the Lord Jesus the Messiah. Previously he sought to be justified and made righteous by his own merits on the basis

of keeping the law, but he never succeeded. He not only became a believer in the Messiah, but he became an apostle. Now in this book of Romans he writes about the reality of justification and righteousness through the Lord Jesus the Messiah.

The main theme of the book of Romans is the righteousness of God. What does that mean? It means that God is the One who imputes or provides righteousness to those who are sinners by nature and practice but who believe in the Lord Jesus the Messiah. This is an amazing truth and Paul was overwhelmed by this truth.

God now looks at us, who are believers in *Yeshua* the Messiah, and declares us to be righteous no matter what our past may be. He does it on the basis of the work that His Son accomplished on the cross. That's the beauty of this book. The key verses are Romans 1:16-17: **For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."** God says in effect, "You didn't work for it; you didn't pay for it; you didn't keep the law for it; you didn't do enough good works to earn it!"

### **The book of Romans can be divided up in two ways:**

The first outline is based on three *D*'s:

1. **Doctrine**—chapters 1 through 8, teaching on sin, salvation and sanctification.
2. **Dispensation**—chapters 9 through 11, God's dealings with Israel past, present and future.
3. **Duty**—chapters 12 through 16, our responsibility as believers here in this world.

And the second outline is based on five *S*'s:

1. **Sin**—chapters 1 through 3:20, the question of sin is mentioned again and again.
2. **Salvation**—chapters 3:21 through 5:21, the salvation that God provides.
3. **Sanctification**—chapters 6 through 8, believers are set apart for God.
4. **Sovereignty**—chapters 9 through 11, God's sovereignty in connection with Israel.
5. **Service**—chapters 12 through 16, service in all areas of life.

Here in the city of Rome is one local church (people who accepted *Yeshua*-Jesus as their Lord and Savior) that Paul was not responsible for planting, at least he didn't have a direct impact. He never met the believers there, although it is possible he met a few of them during his travels. So how did this church get started? Back in Acts 2, when the Holy Spirit came upon the Jewish believers in Jerusalem during the feast of Pentecost (*Shavuot* in Hebrew), these Jewish people came from Asia, Asia Minor and many other places. Perhaps some of them were also from the city of Rome. Peter preached the gospel to them and many were saved. Then we read in Acts 8 that due to persecution many believers in Messiah were scattered—it's very possible that some of these ended up in Rome and preached the gospel there too—and a church was started.

This letter to the Roman believers was written about 60 AD, before the apostle Paul went to Jerusalem. Most scholars believe he wrote it from Corinth. Paul had heard about this church and it was his desire to build them up, to instruct them in their most holy faith so they would grow spiritually and mature and become soldiers of the Lord Jesus the Messiah.





# Section A

## SIN

## QUESTION

### Mentioned

### Repeatedly

**Romans 1:1–3:20**

*“All have sinned and fall short  
of the glory of God.”  
— Romans 3:23*

## Chapter 1. Romans 1:1-7

### Paul's Introduction to the Romans

- <sup>1</sup> *Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God*  
<sup>2</sup> *which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures,*  
<sup>3</sup> *concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,*  
<sup>4</sup> *and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.*  
<sup>5</sup> *Through Him we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for His name,*  
<sup>6</sup> *among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ;*  
<sup>7</sup> *To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Paul introduces himself in verse 1: **Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God.** It would certainly be an appropriate thing to do since most of the believers in the church in Rome didn't know Paul personally. Paul mentions three things: first he introduces himself as a bondservant or a slave. There were sixty million slaves throughout the Roman Empire, all serving a human master. It is interesting also because Rome was the seat of power and authority—the city of the Caesars; you might say they were slaves of power. But Paul was not a slave of the Romans; he was a slave of Jesus the Messiah. He was devoted to Him. It was only a short time ago that Paul sought to destroy those who believed on the Lord Jesus the Messiah. At that time he was a slave to the law, a slave to his Jewish religion, but all that changed on the road to Damascus. He now recognized Jesus—*Yeshua*, to be his Master and Messiah.

# **I Am Not Ashamed of the Gospel of MESSIAH**

Gideon Levytam presents the serious but glorious truths of Scripture from a Hebrew –Christian (Messianic) perspective in his teaching on the New Testament Book of Romans, a letter by the apostle Paul. The theme is “the righteousness of God.”

Though the apostle Paul (Shaul) was sent by God to explain His principles of the new [era] to the Gentiles, as a Jew—“the son of a Pharisee...circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee...concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”—his heart burned with love for his own Jewish people, many of whom he had persecuted for their faith in Yeshua the Messiah.

The epistle to the Romans is uniquely suited to show Jewish believers in Yeshua, the Messiah, a mirror of God's Old Covenant principles and ways which could never “make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience.” Paul contrasted the message that “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” with the beautiful freedoms and prospects of life in the Messiah Yeshua: “whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved...for with the heart one believes unto righteousness.”

Brother Levytam takes us through the book as it shows us that we are all “guilty before God.” But through “Him who bore our sins in His own body on the tree” we are justified, sanctified, reconciled, our old man is crucified. We are made righteous, dead to the Law, and ultimately will be glorified.

Gideon shows how Romans is divided in three sections: Doctrine, Dispensation, and Duty, and outlines five S's: sin, salvation, sanctification, sovereignty, and service. His final emphases from the last chapters are Israel's Future Prospect and Believers' Service for the Lord.



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