

Epistle to the Romans 15:1-21

Romans 15:1-6 (NRSVue)

¹ We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.² Each of us must please our neighbor for the good purpose of building up the neighbor.

- **Put up:** To support, meet needs.
- **Please :** As we love ourselves.
- **Build:** To strengthen, add to.

³ For Christ did not please himself, but, as it is written, “The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.”

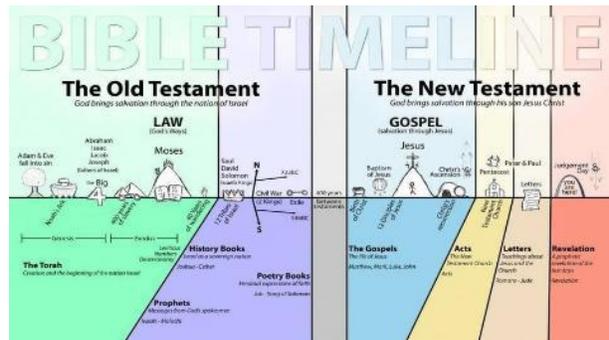
[Psa. 69:9]

⁴ For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, ...

- **Former:** Before (NT) Gospels.
- **Written:** Tanakh (OT) Scriptures.
- **Instruction:** Most lessons for our life.

so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

- **Steadfast:** Endurance under stress.
- **Encourage:** Applicable truth.
- **Scriptures:** Read/study the Tanakh.
- **Hope:** Firm expectation.



⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus,⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- **Grant:** A gift from God.
- **Together:** The strong and the weak.

Romans 15:7-13 (NRSVue)

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God ...

- **Welcome:** Receive into churches.
- **Servant:** To meet Israelites' needs.
- **Truth:** As promised in Scripture.

in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

- **Confirm:** Show to be true.
- **Promises:** What had God promised?
- **Ancestors:** Who received promises?
- **Gentiles:** Genesis 12:3 (to Abraham).
- **Mercy:** Kindly meeting needs.

As it is written, [2 Sam. 22:50; Psa. 18:49]

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles

and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says, [Deut. 32:43]

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

- **Confess:** To declare openly.
- **Name:** Idiom = sum of qualities.
- **People:** With the Israelites.

Deuteronomy 32:43

Sources

- Masoretic text (10th century AD/CE), 4 cola (lines):
“Praise, O heavens, his people” NRSVue.
- Greek Septuagint and another version (3rd century BC/BCE), 8 cola.
- Qumran (DSS) 4QDeut^d (1st century BC/BCE or earlier), 6 cola.

Deuteronomy 32:43 100 BC

Dead Sea Scroll 4Q44

“Shout for joy, O heavens, with him, and **worship Him, all you divine ones [angels]**, for He will avenge the blood of His sons, and He will render vengeance to His adversaries, and He will repay the ones hating him and He purges the land of His people.”

“Let all the angels of God worship Him.” (Hebrews 1:8)

“Worship him all you angels of God.” (Deut 32:43, LXX)

Also quoted:

1. Job 1:8 also echoes Ps 27:7
2. Justin Martyr Dial. 130
3. Odes 2:43, Apocryptic

www.bible.ca/manuscripts

1. The Masorets locks the entire phrase
2. Cave 4 100-200 AD
3. 4Q44 4Q Deuteronomy
4. 4Q Deuteronomy 32
5. Hebrew Bible, Deuteronomy 32

Deuteronomy 32:43 restored

Rejoice, heavens^M/gentiles^G with Him / his people*;
[Bow to him, all you gods.]
For he avenges his sons’ blood;
He takes revenge upon his adversaries.
[Those who hate him will he requite;]
He cleanses his people’s land.
*Heb. [?]*imwo*=with him, [?]*amwo*=his people

BIBLIA HEBRAICA STUTTGARTENSIS:
THE HEBREW-ENGLISH INTERLINEAR ESV OLD TESTAMENT

יְקוּם	d	עַבְדָּיו	כִּי	בְּ	עַמּוֹ	a	גּוֹיִם	וְיִשְׂמְחוּ	43
he-avenges		servants-of-him	blood-of	for	people-of-him		nations	rejoice	
אֲדַמְתּוּ		וַיְכַפֵּר	e	לְעָרְיוֹ	יְשִׁיב		וְיִקְדֶּם		
and-of-him		and-he-makes-atonement	to-adversaries-of-him	he-makes-return	and-vengeance		עַמּוֹ:		
							people-of-him		

^dDead Sea Scroll, Septuagint; Masoretic Text *Rejoice his people, O nations*

32:43 a perhaps written with Dead Sea Scroll, Septuagint, שמחים
32:43 b Septuagint, ὁμοῦ αὐτῶν = עַמּוֹ ; Dead Sea Scroll, Septuagint add אלהים לו (כל) והשתחוּ לו (כל) בני או והשתחוּ לו (כל) בני או והשתחוּ לו (כל) בני או

11 and again, [Psa. 117:1]
“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him”;

- **Lord:** Gk ‘the Lord’ ← Hb ‘Yahweh’.
- **All:** All=extent of Gentile mission.
- **Let:** Imperative ‘must’, not ‘allow’.
- **Gentiles:** *Ethnos*, i.e., ethnicities.
- **Peoples:** Social classes & structures.

12 and again Isaiah says, [Isa. 11:10]
“The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope.”

- **Root:** Left when tree is cut down.
- **Jesse:** King David’s father.
- **Rise:** Attain or seize power.
- **Rule:** King over all nations.
- **Hope:** Now awaiting Israel’s Messiah.

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

- **Fill:** Cause to experience.
- **Hope:** God plans our future.
- **Joy:** Divine pneumatonic.
- **Peace:** Not frightened by NWO.
- **Believe:** Remaining faithful to Jesus.

Romans 15:14-16 (NRSVue)

14 I myself feel confident about you, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, and able to instruct one another.

- **Goodness:** Motivation: to help.
- **knowledge:** Material: useful.
- **Instruct:** Methods: outcomes.

¹⁵ Nevertheless, on some points I have written to you rather boldly by way of reminder, because of the grace given me by God ¹⁶ to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the gentiles in the priestly service of the gospel of God, ...

- **Reminder:** We forget facts and acts.
- **Grace :** The Spirit opens opportunity
- **Gospel:** Always share good news.

... so that the offering of the gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁷ In Christ Jesus, then, I have reason to boast of my work for God.

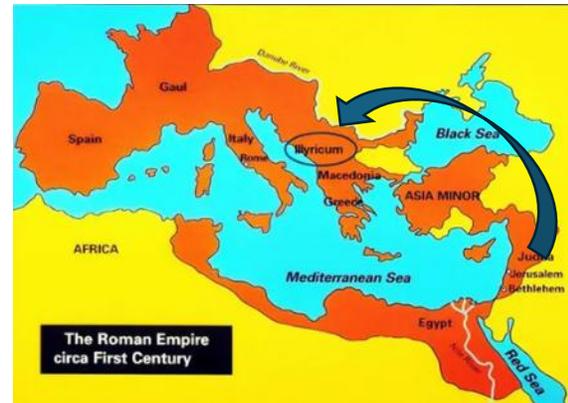
- **Offering:** = gentile believes.
- **Acceptable:** Ethnicity does not matter.
- **Sanctified:** Made holy = new owner.
- **Boast:** Rejoice, not vain bragging.
- **Work:** (Not in the original.)

¹⁸ For I will not be so bold as to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to win obedience from the gentiles, by word and deed, ¹⁹ by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit, ...

- **Christ:** God active in the world.
- **Obedience:** Jesus' commandments.
- **Spirit:** Active in the supernatural.

... so that from Jerusalem and as far around as Illyricum I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰ Thus I make it my ambition to proclaim the gospel, not where Christ has already been named, so that I do not build on someone else's foundation,

- **Fully:** Now self-propogating churches
- **Named:** Messiah's name is ...



<http://romans.forum>

