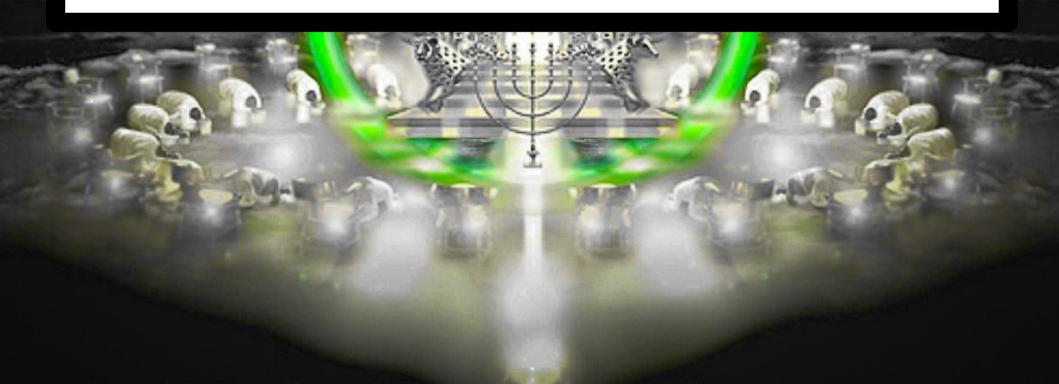


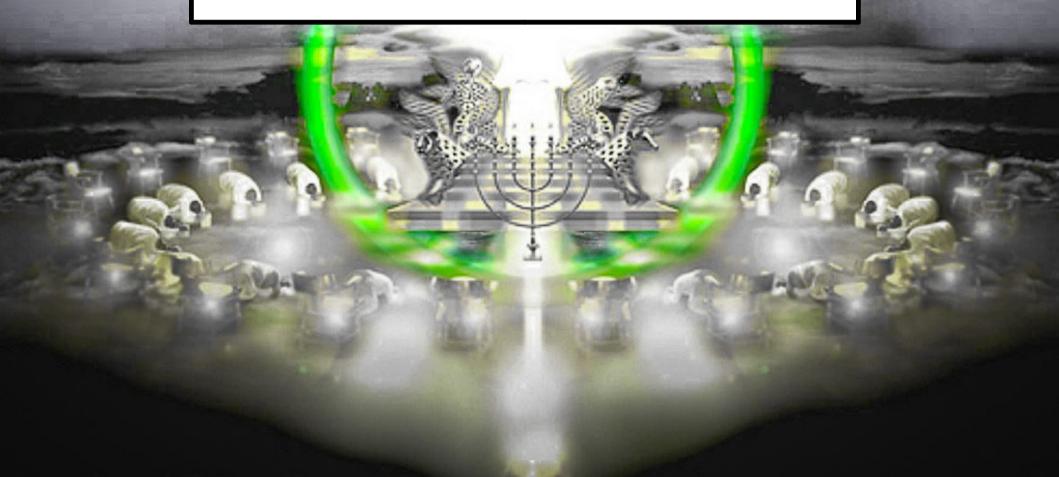
Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.



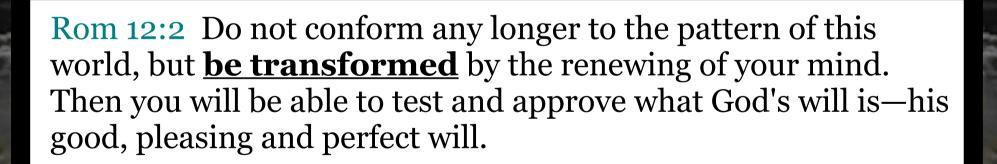
Rom 5:1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

How God enabled us to have peace with himself.

Our theme for 2016: "Be transformed!"



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Let's put that in context:

Rom 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Rom 12:2 Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

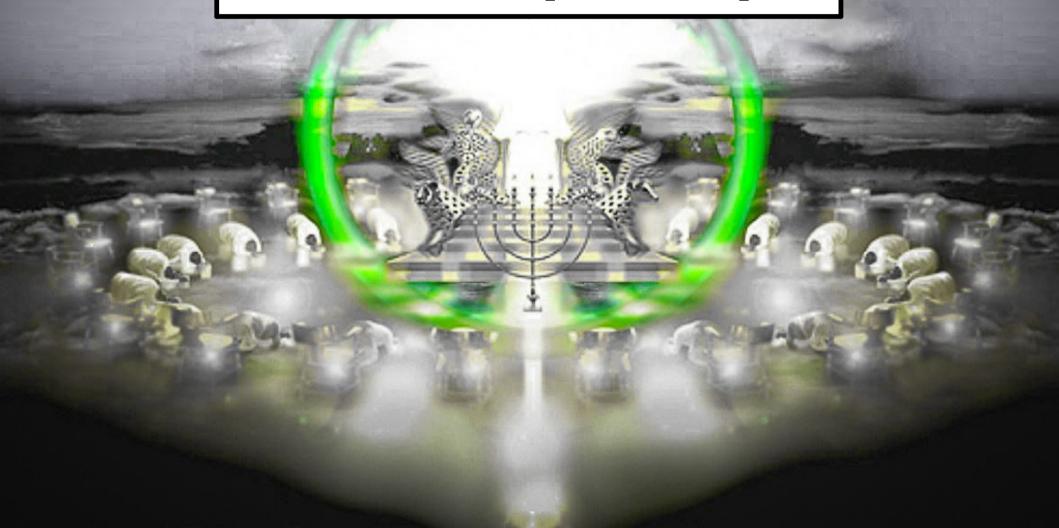
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What is "Therefore" there for?

Context: End of the previous chapter



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Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!

Rom 11:34 "Who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?"

Rom 11:35 "Who has ever given to God, that God should repay him?"

Rom 11:36 For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen.

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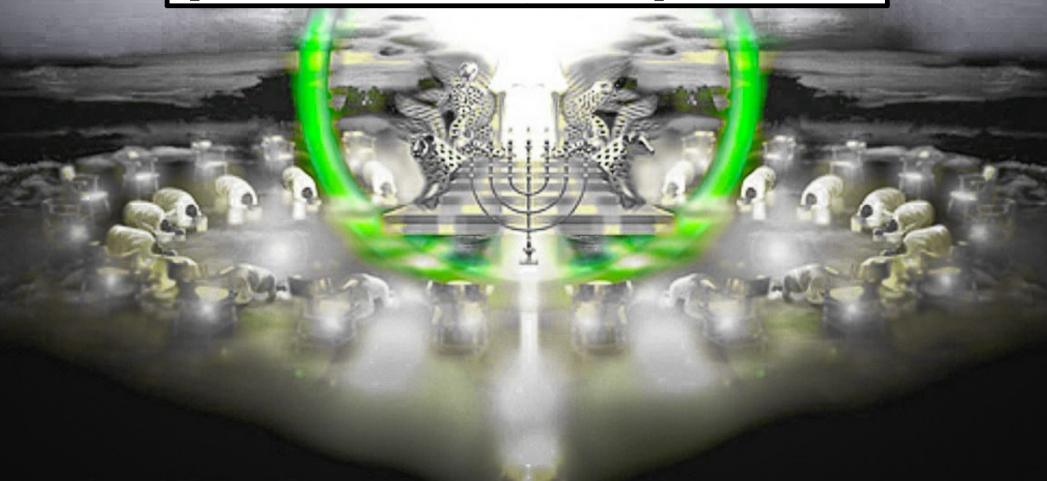
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What prompted Paul to write that?

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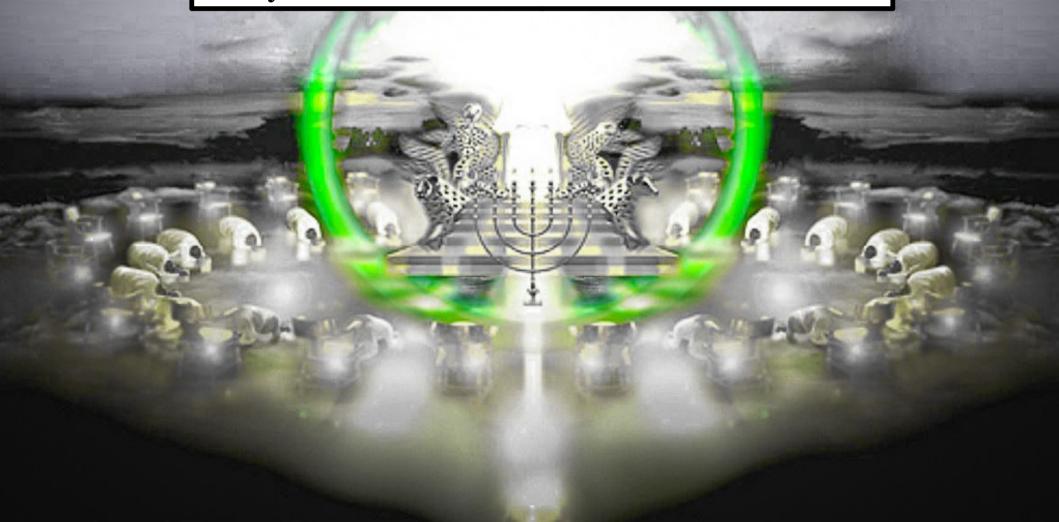
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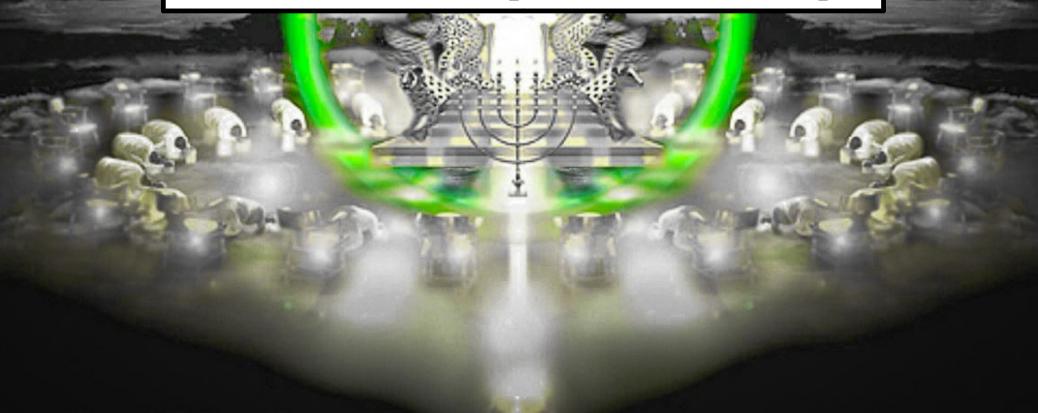
The gospel which he's been explaining for the past eleven chapters!

Why does Rom 12:1 start with "Therefore"?



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Romans 1-11: Full explanation of the Gospel



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Rom 12-16: Our response to God's mercy

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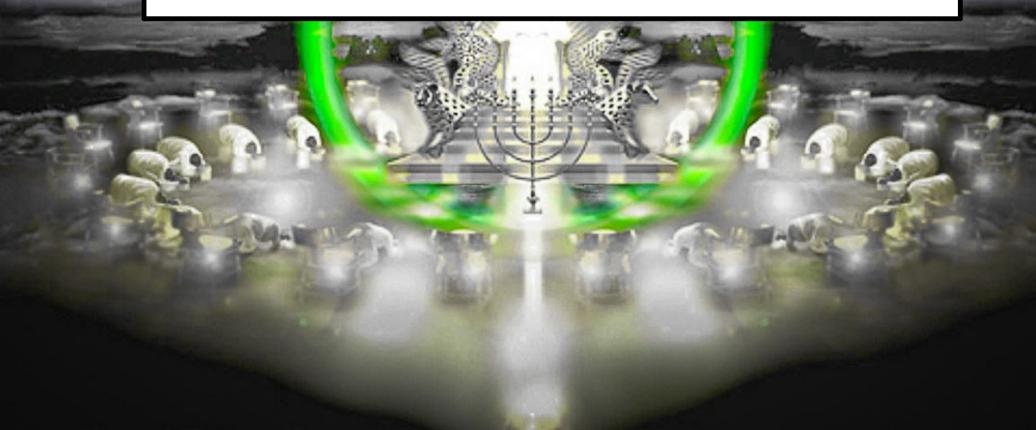
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Rom 12-16: Our response to God's mercy

Be transformed because of what God has done for us.

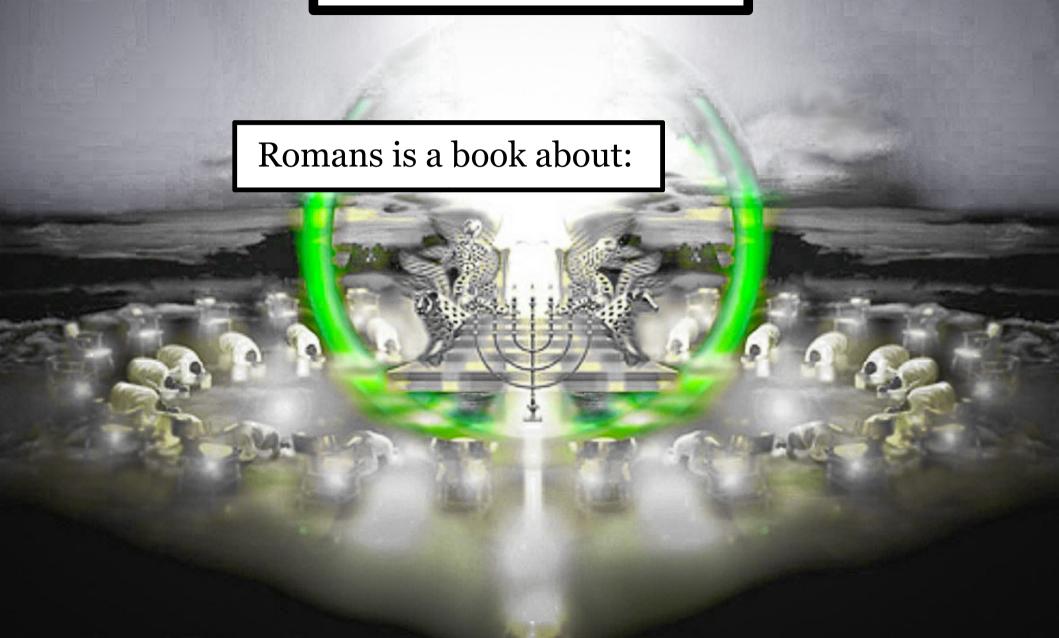
Transformation begins with understanding what God has done for us.



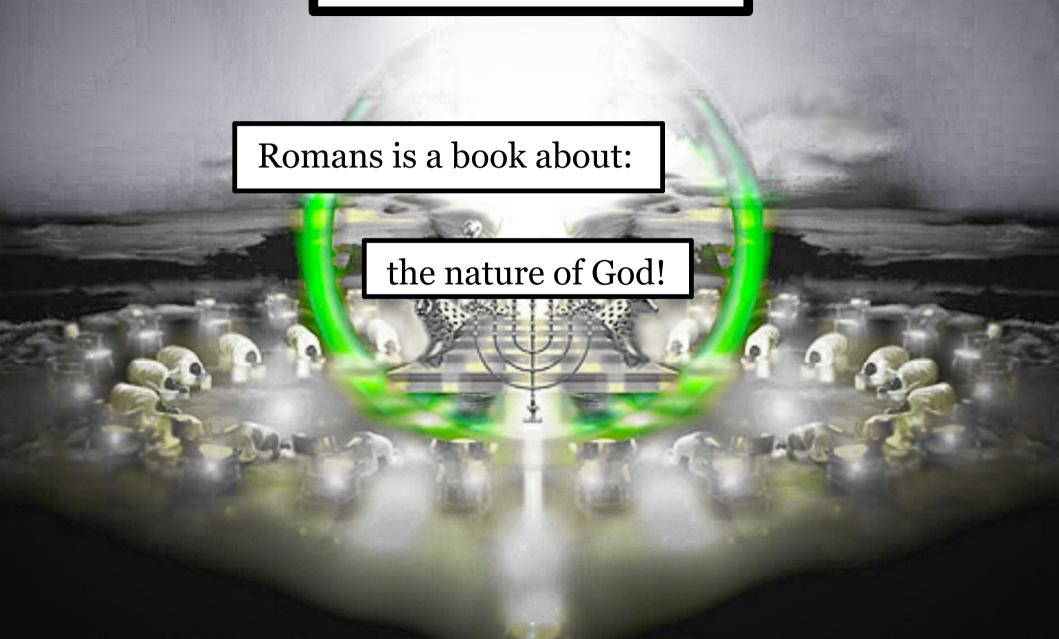
Transformation begins with understanding what God has done for us.

It is fitting to study the book of Romans as the foundation for transformation in 2016.









Romans is a book about:

the nature of God!

the gospel!

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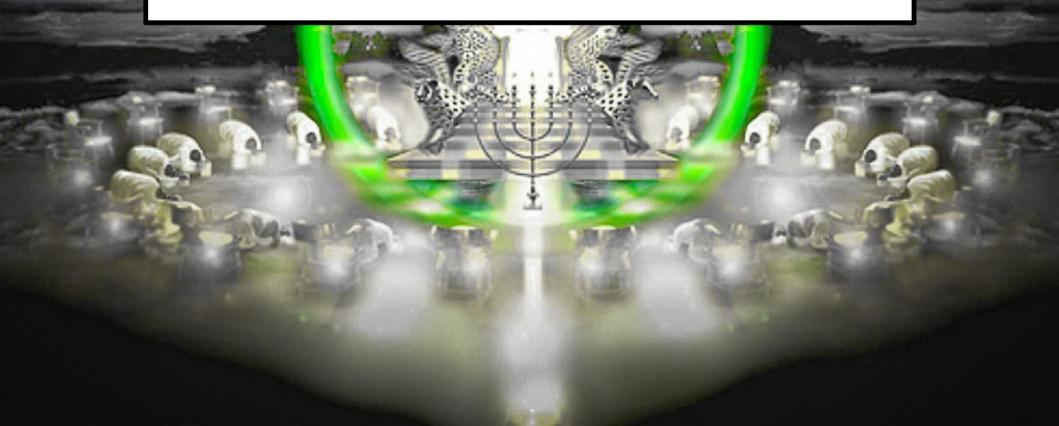
the nature of God!

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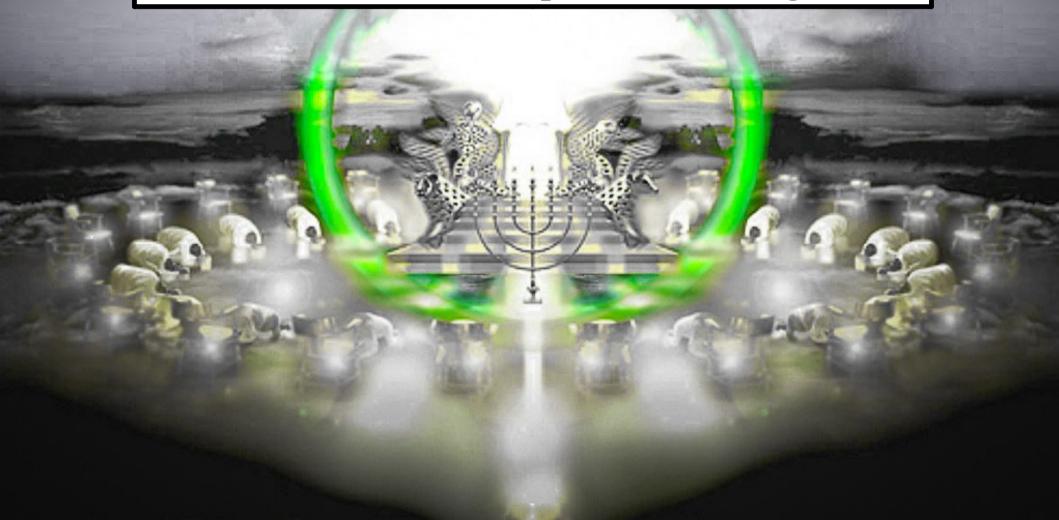
our response!

The book of Romans has been called "the most profound work in existence."

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge



Peter commented on the profound writing of Paul



Peter commented on the profound writing of Paul

2Pe 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him.

2Pe 3:16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.

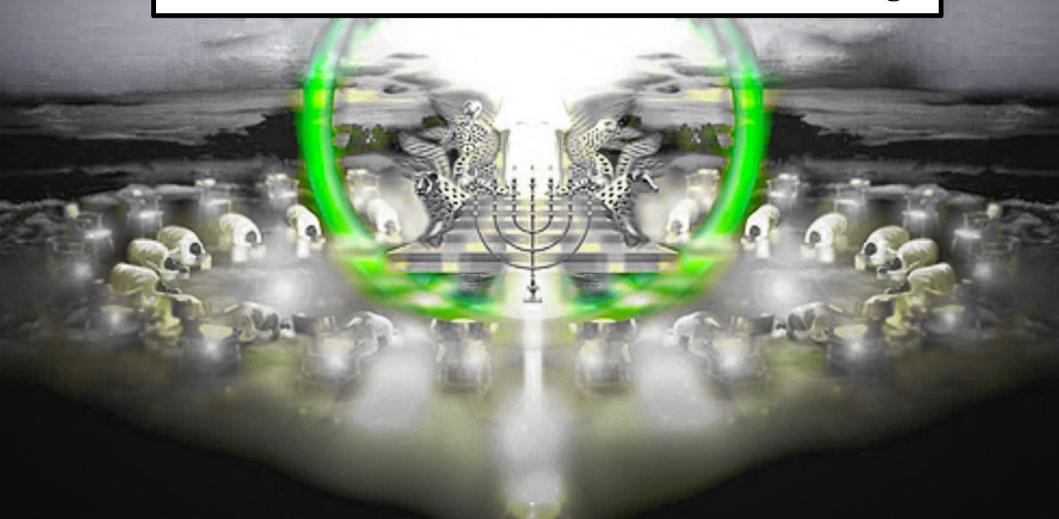
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Some things are difficult to understand.

Paul addressed some distortions of his teaching

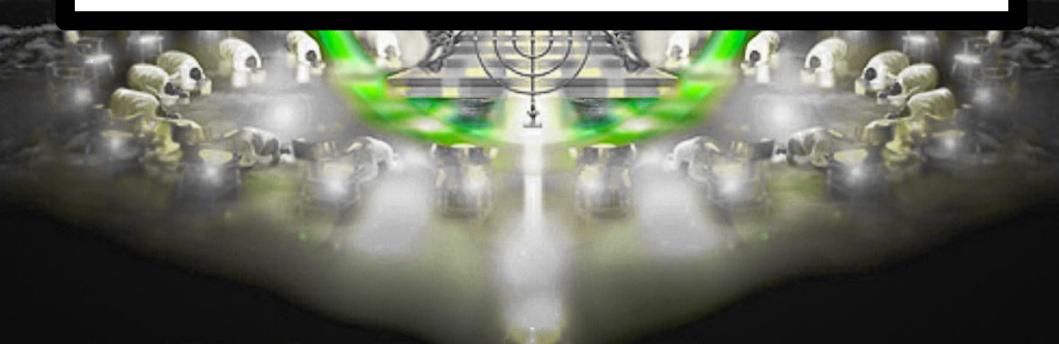


Paul addressed some distortions of his teaching

Rom 3:8 Why not say—as we are being slanderously reported as saying and as some claim that we say—"Let us do evil that good may result"? Their condemnation is deserved.

Paul addressed some distortions of his teaching

Rom 3:31 Do we, then, nullify the law by this faith? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the law.



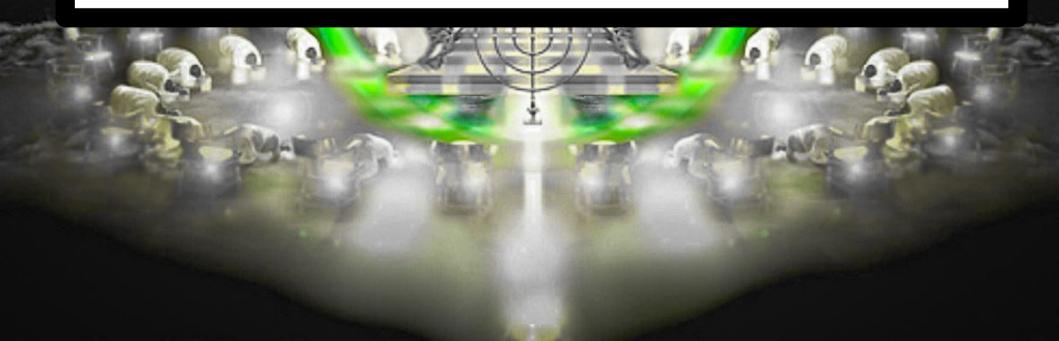
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Rom 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

Rom 6:2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

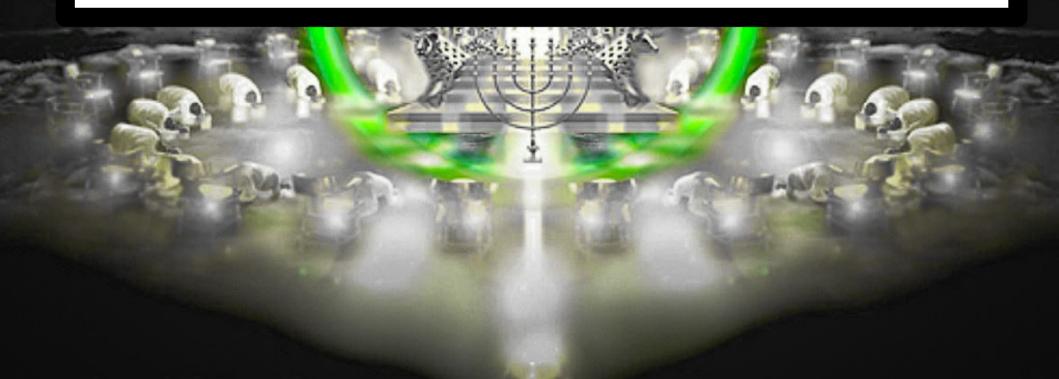
Paul addressed some distortions of his teaching

Rom 6:15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

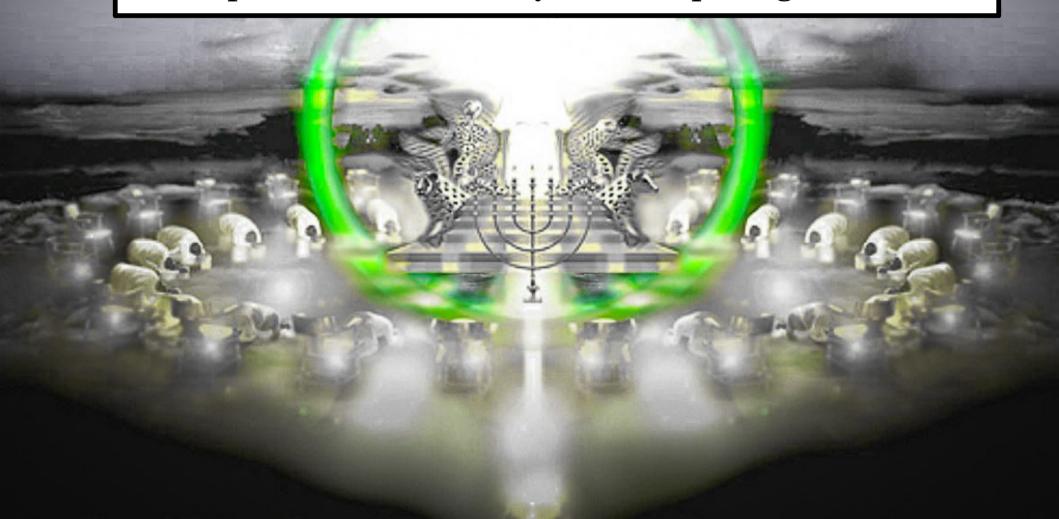


Paul addressed some distortions of his teaching

Rom 7:7 What shall we say, then? Is the law sin? Certainly not!

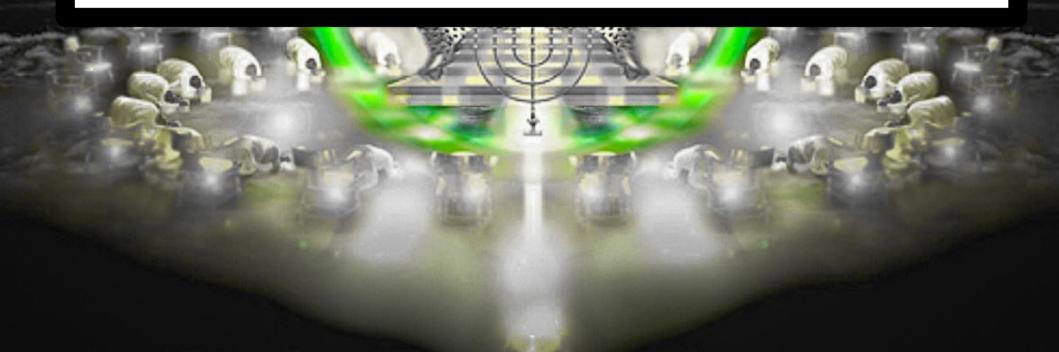


Perhaps the most famously debated passage in the NT



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Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.



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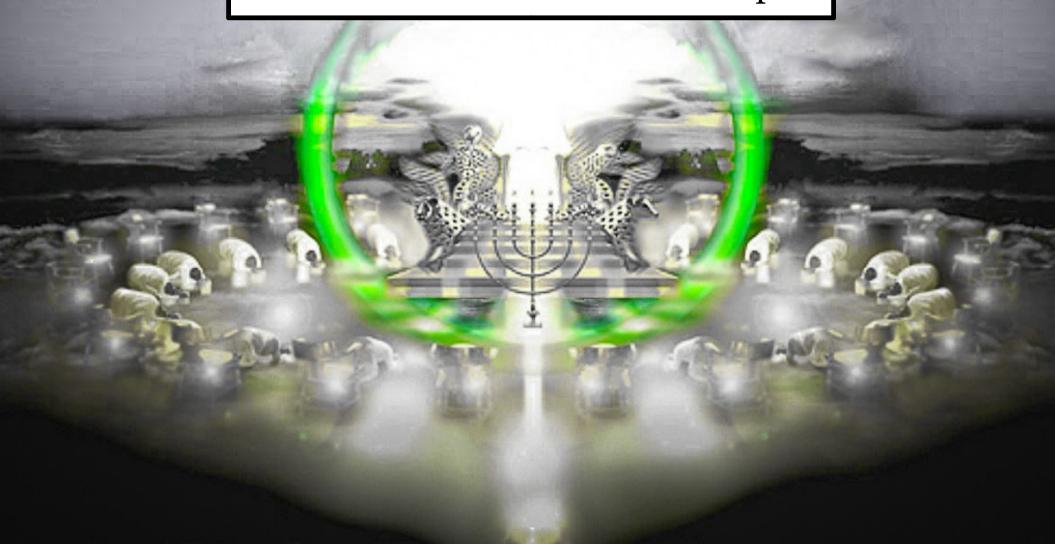
Rom 3:28 For we maintain that a man is justified by faith apart from observing the law.

Faith alone? We will discuss this in a few weeks





The first Romans to hear the Gospel



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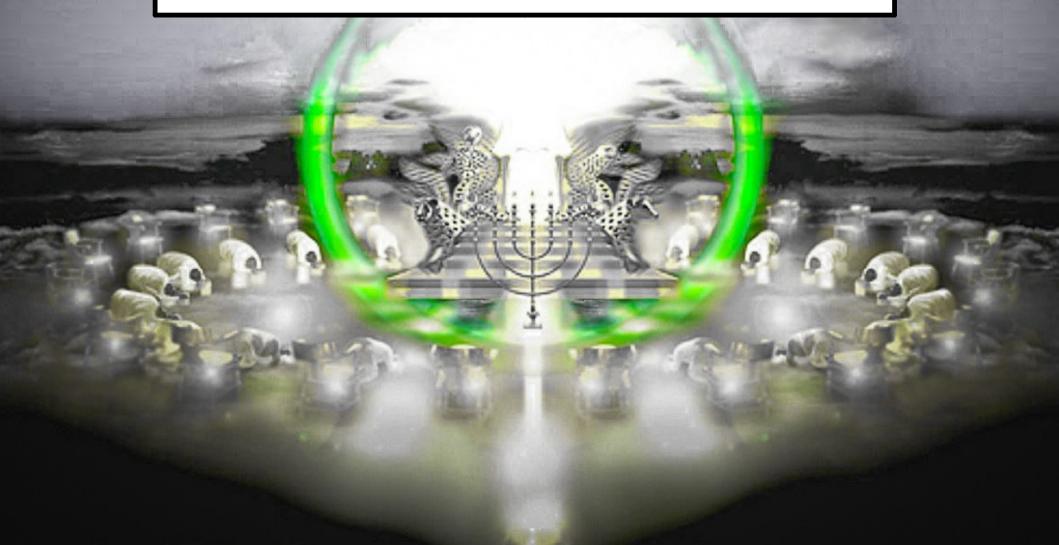
Act 2:7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?

Act 2:8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language?

Act 2:9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Act 2:10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome

Act 2:11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

AD 49-50: Claudius evicted Jews from Rome

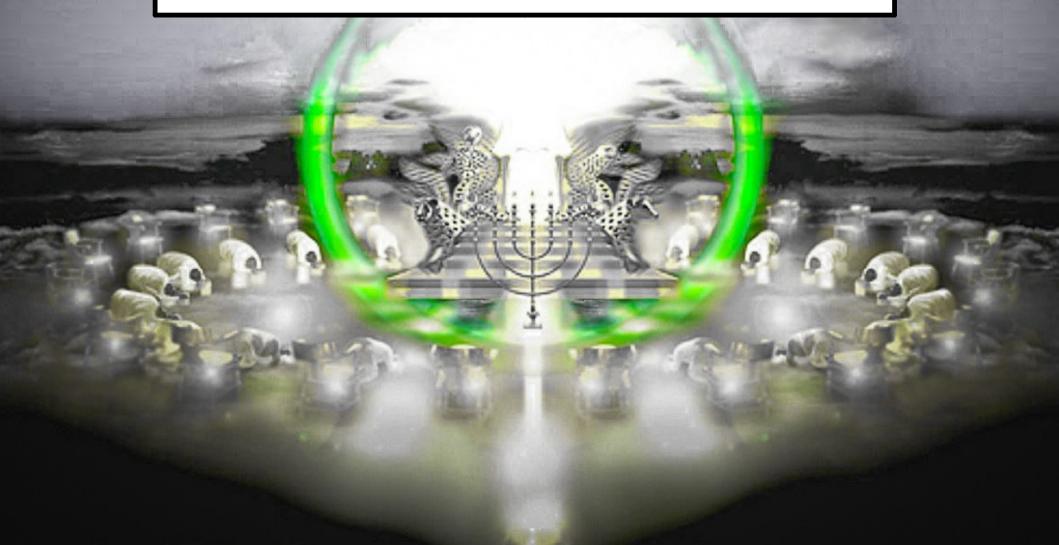


AD 49-50: Claudius evicted Jews from Rome

Act 18:2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all the Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them,

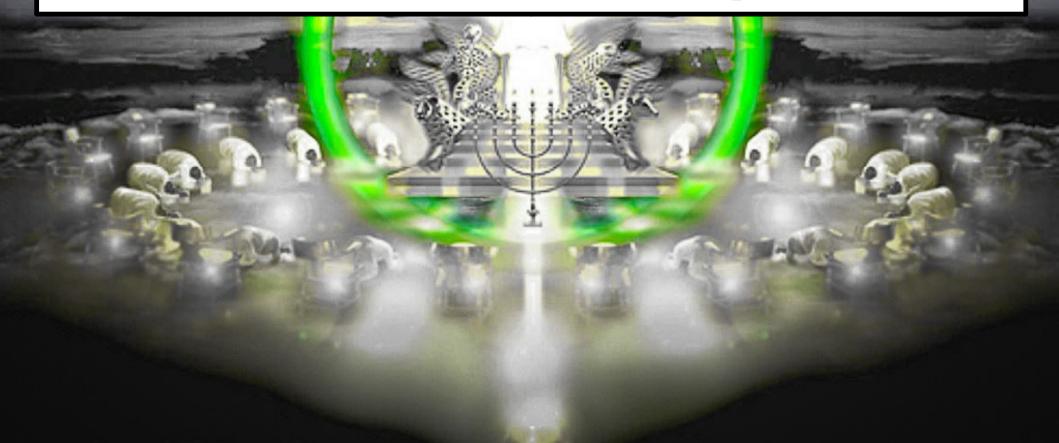
Act 18:3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

AD 54: Claudius died. Jews could return



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AD 56: Paul wrote Romans; Priscilla and Aquila had returned.



AD 54: Claudius died. Jews could return

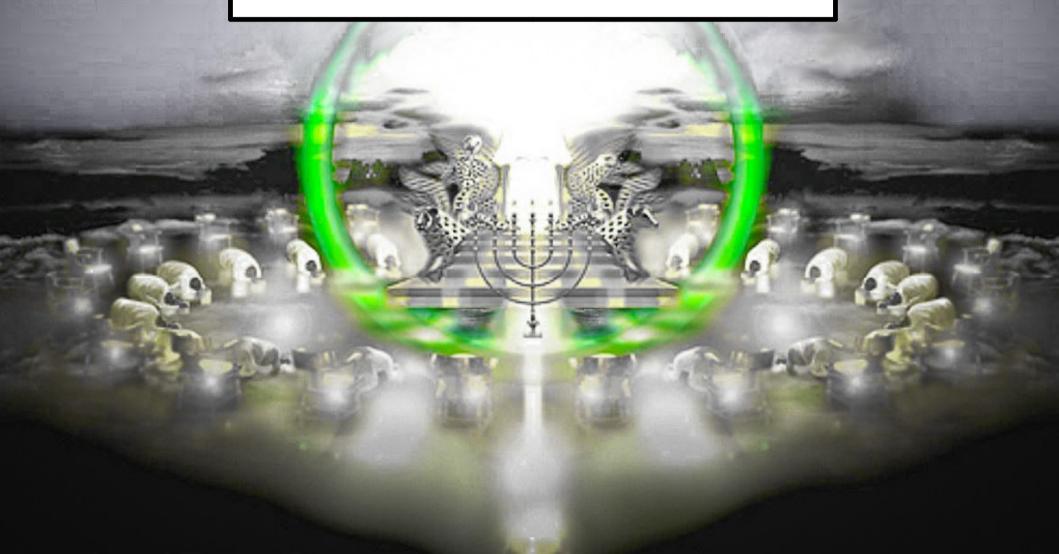
AD 56: Paul wrote Romans; Priscilla and Aquila had returned.

Rom 16:3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus.

Rom 16:4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them.

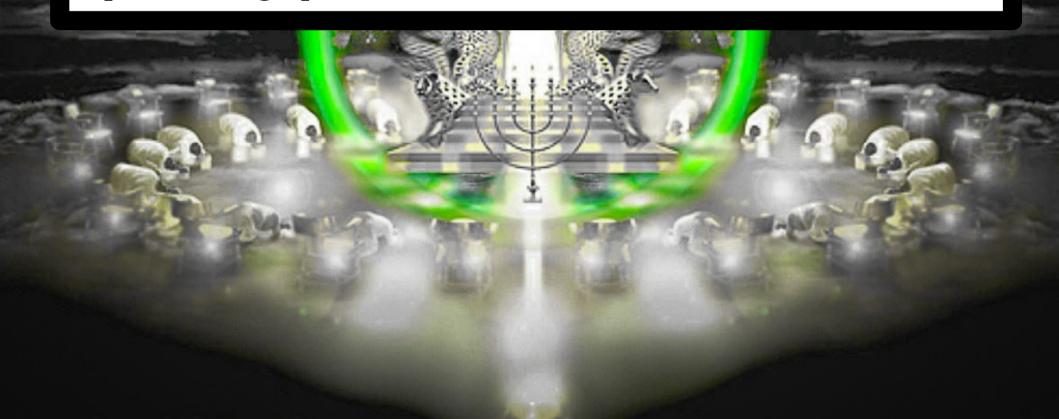
Rom 16:5 Greet also the church that meets at their house

Paul's letter to the church in Rome



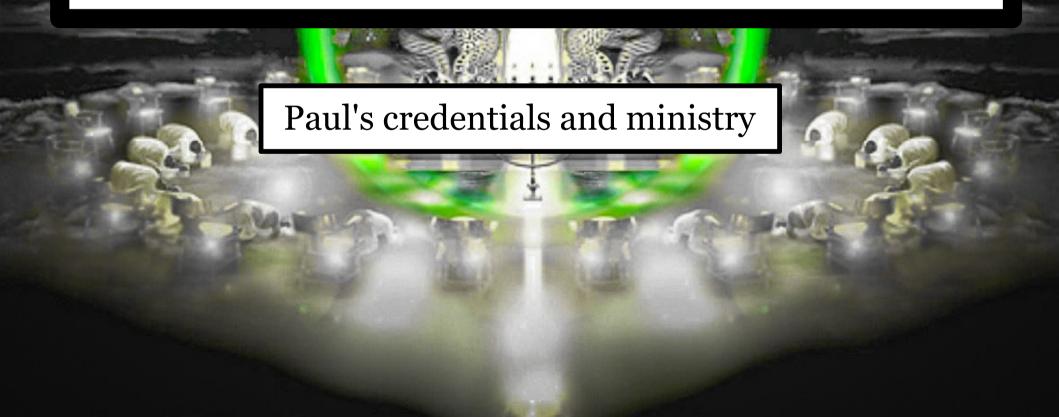
Paul's letter to the church in Rome

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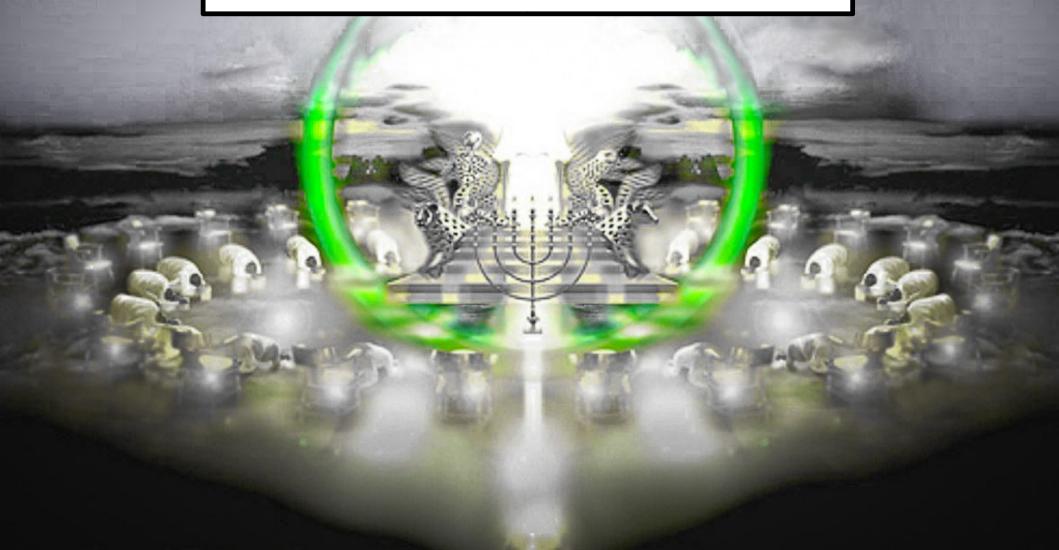


Paul's letter to the church in Rome

Rom 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—



Parenthetical comments on the gospel



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Rom 1:2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures

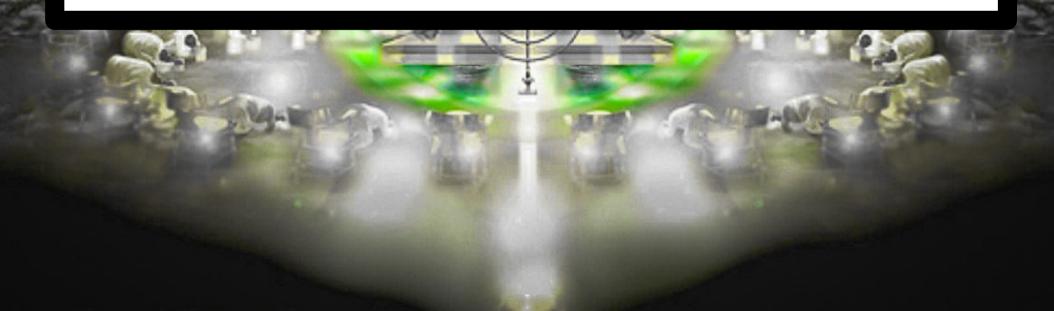
Rom 1:3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David,

Rom 1:4 and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord.

Parenthetical comments on the gospel

Rom 1:5 Through him and for his name's sake, we received grace and apostleship to call people from among all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith.

Rom 1:6 And you also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ.



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Calling to the obedience that comes from faith

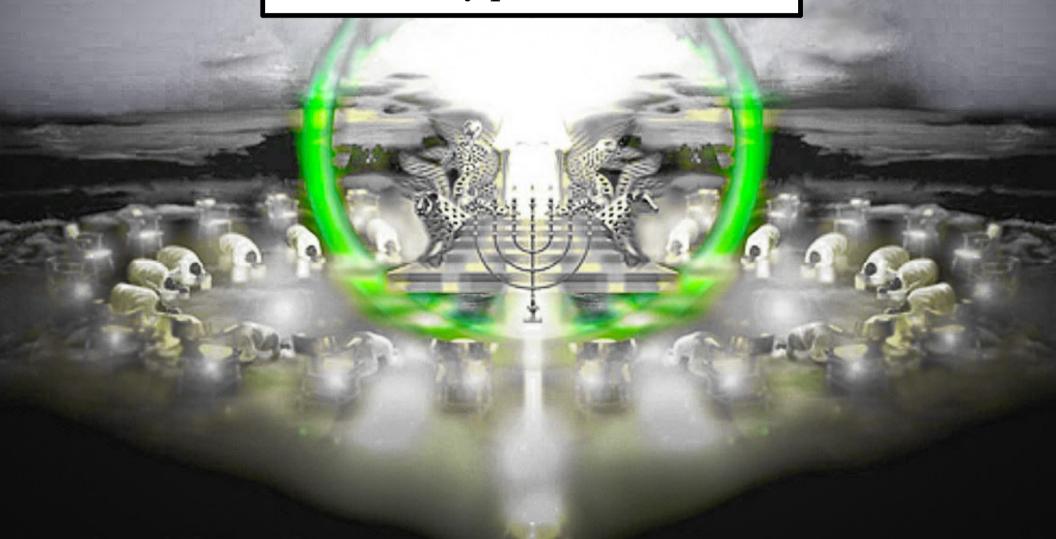
Paul's letter to the church in Rome

Rom 1:1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God—

• • •

Rom 1:7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Introductory personal remarks



Introductory personal remarks

Rom 1:8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world.

Rom 1:9 God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you

Rom 1:10 in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God's will the way may be opened for me to come to you.

Rom 1:11 I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong—

Rom 1:12 that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.

Introductory personal remarks

Rom 1:13 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I planned many times to come to you (but have been prevented from doing so until now) in order that I might have a harvest among you, just as I have had among the other Gentiles.

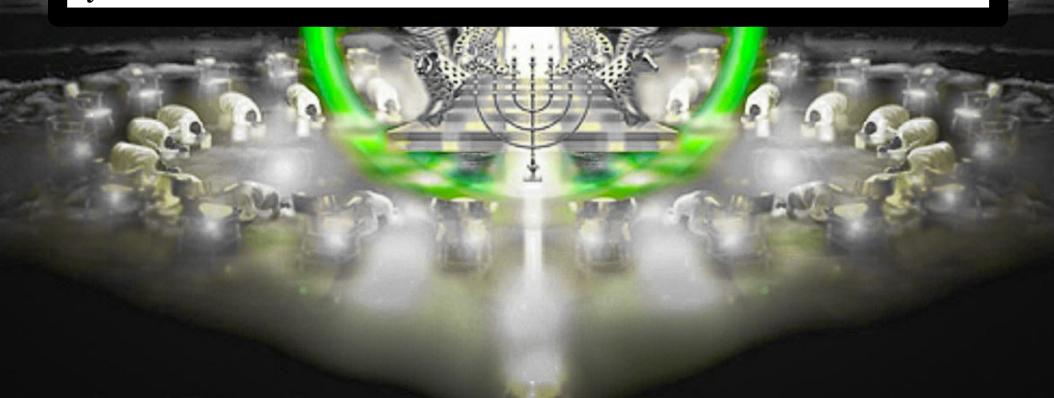
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Paul had never been to Rome.

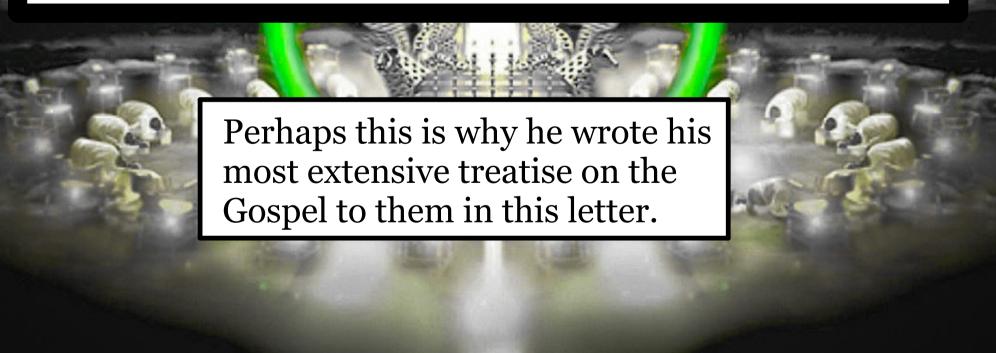
Rom 1:14 I am obligated both to Greeks and non-Greeks, both to the wise and the foolish.

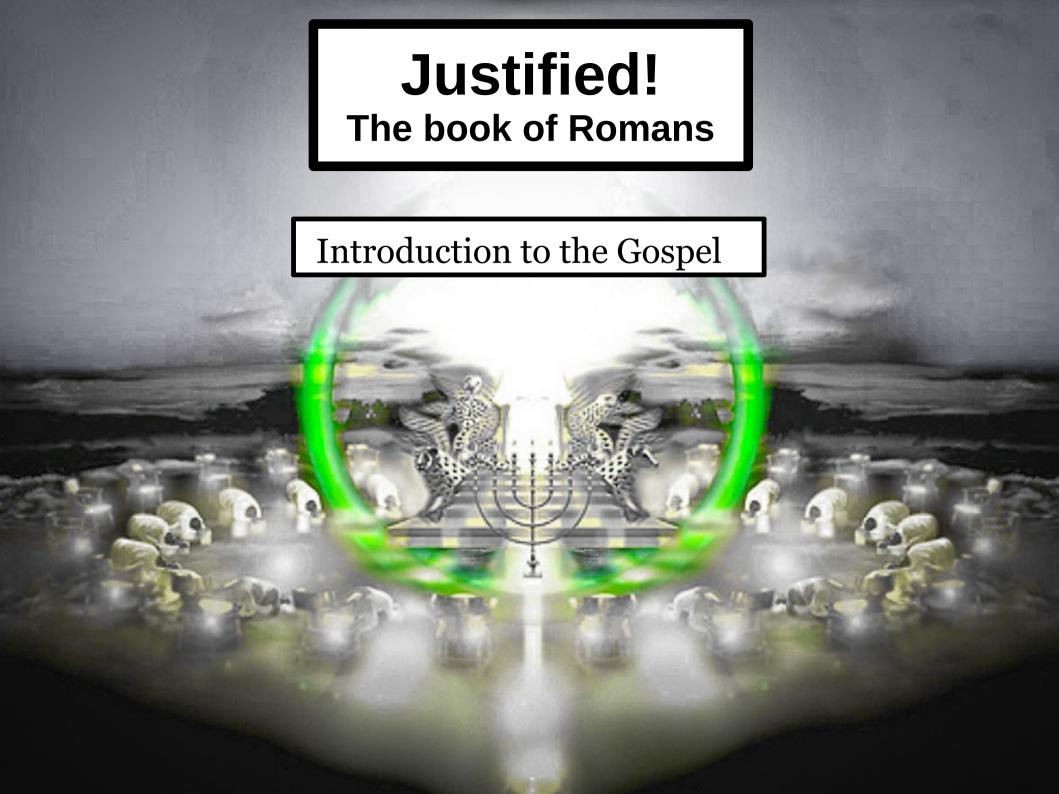
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Introduction to the Gospel

Rom 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.

Rom 1:17 For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

Introduction to the Gospel

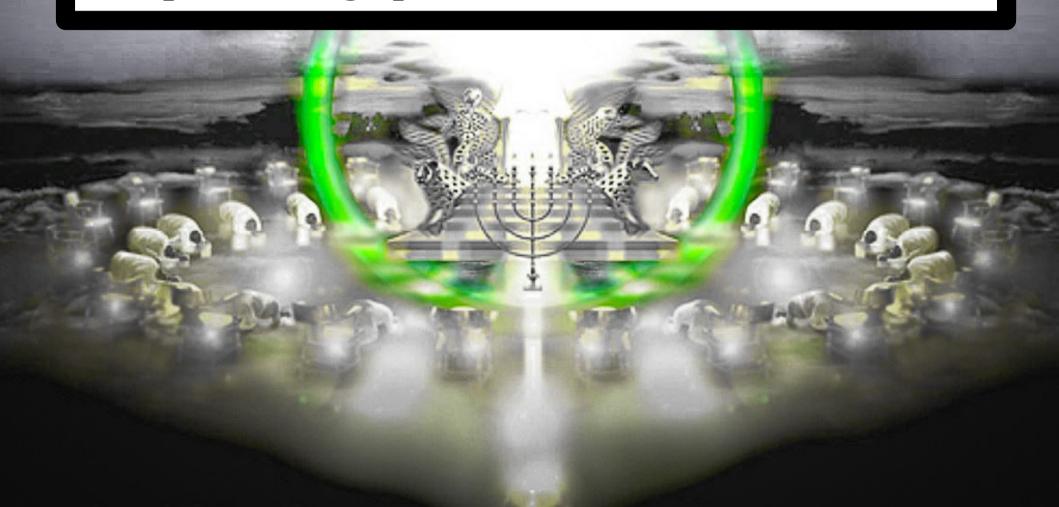
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Righteousness by faith

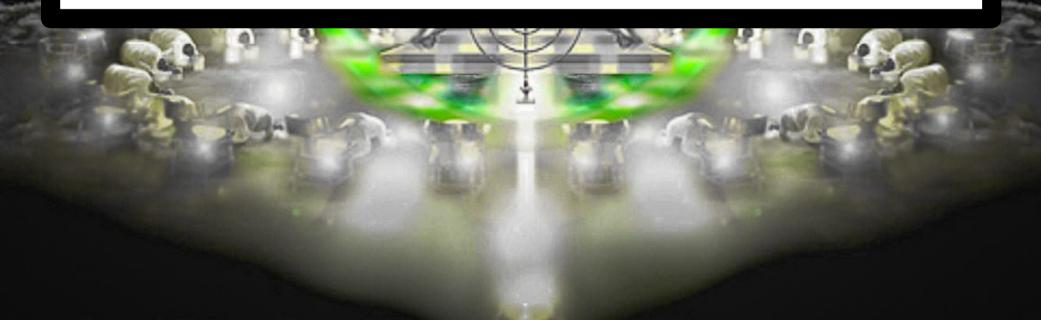


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