



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 21 – NATIONS &
CALL V

A thick black L-shaped frame surrounds the text. The top-left corner is a horizontal bar extending to the right, then a vertical bar extending downwards. The bottom-right corner is a horizontal bar extending to the left, then a vertical bar extending upwards.

WELCOME TO “GRAND THEMES”

Each week we will trace a major theme through the
whole Bible.









Nations & Call



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Theme gallery



					
TEMPLE	COVENANT	EXODUS	L&D	KINGDOM	ORDER & CHAOS

Theme gallery



					
NATIONS & CALL					



Nations in Romans



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Redefining the people of God

ALL = **Jew** + **Gentile**



Roman Recap



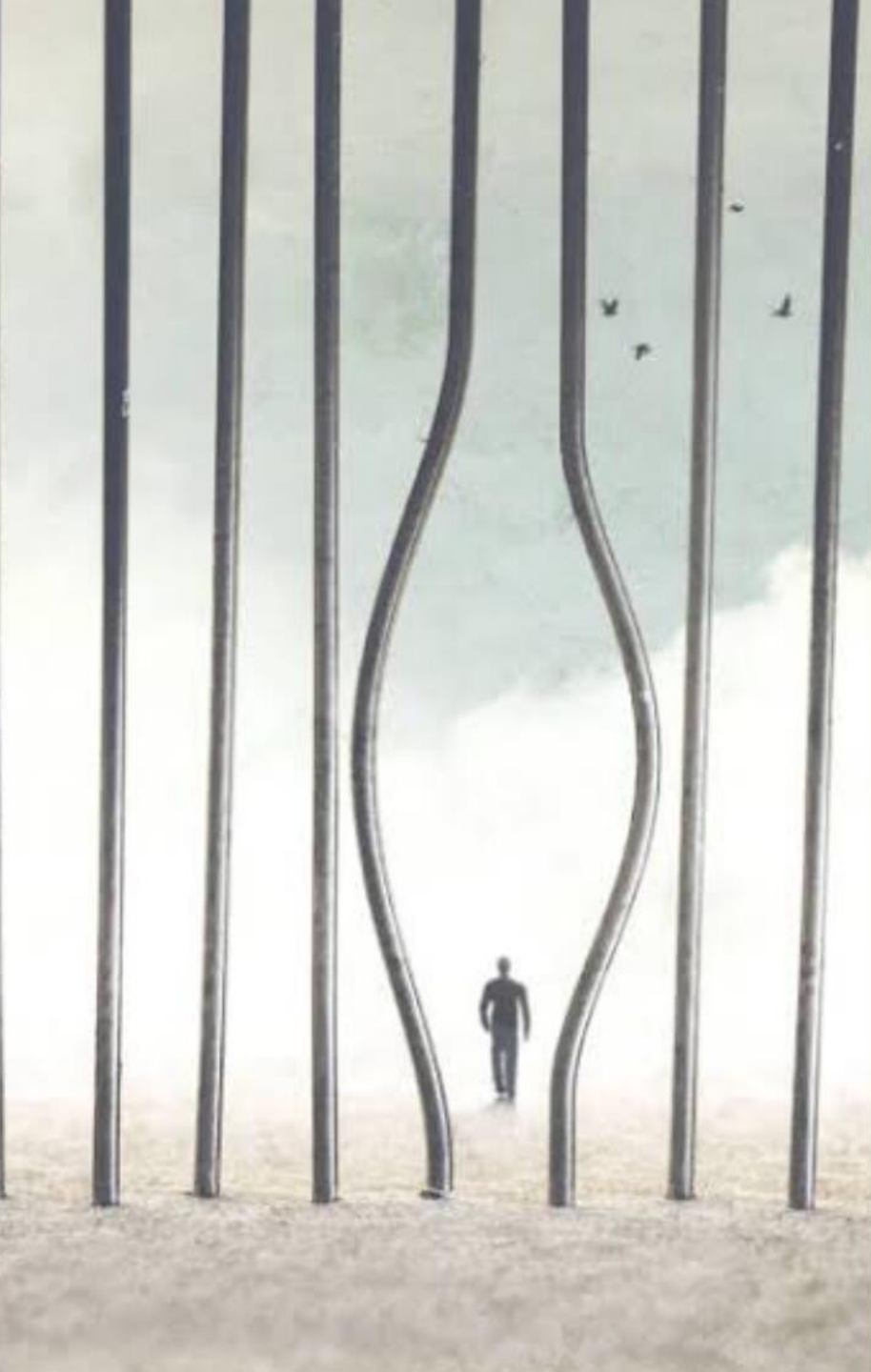
- Romans 1 – Gentiles called to the obedience of faith, How's this going to work?
- Romans 1 – Gentiles have sinned
- Romans 2 – Jews have sinned. Circumcision of the heart.
- Romans 3 – All have sinned
- Romans 4 – Making faith the key. There will be many nations.
- Romans 5 – Righteousness, Reconciliation, Peace, Access
- Romans 6 – Dying to sin, Baptised into Jesus' death. New life.
- Romans 7 - Released from the old law. Need a new law.



Released from the Law (Rom 7)



- (Rom 7:6) *But now we have been **released** from the law, since we have died to what held us, so that we may serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old letter of the law.*
- *What Law is this?*
- *Why is this important from a Gentile perspective?*
- (Rom 7:24b-25) *Who will rescue me from this dying body? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I myself am a slave to the law of God, but with my flesh, to the law of sin.*
- *Need a new law for everybody!*



Romans 8 – New life in the Spirit



- (Rom 8:2)... because the Spirit's law of life in Christ Jesus has **set you free** from the law of sin and of death.
- God sent Jesus as the perfect and innocent sin offering.
- This works for those who walk according to the spirit.
- Living according to the Spirit – what is that exactly?
-



Romans 8 – New life in the Spirit



- (Rom 8:5-6) For those who live according to the flesh think about the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, about the things of the Spirit. For the mind-set of the flesh is death, but the mind-set of the Spirit is life and peace.
- Different mindset - mindset of the spirit is life and peace.
- 8:9 Spirit living in you (temple theme) - defining factor - do not have the spirit - do not belong to Christ.
- Those led by God's spirit are sons. Adoption not slavery... become children and therefore **Heirs**.
- Waiting now for the promised adoption when our bodies are redeemed. (8.23). Groaning in wait!
- The Spirit helps us now to enable victory over sin. It's such a great victory nothing can overcome it. Spirit interceding now.
- What's your prevalent mindset?

Romans 9 – The way of faith



- (Rom 9:6-8) But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel. Neither are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants. On the contrary, **your offspring will be traced through Isaac**. That is, it is not the children by physical descent who are God's children, but the children of the promise are considered to be the offspring.
- This is a way in for the Gentiles! Don't have to have Jewish ancestors. Children of the promise.
- (Rom 9:30-32) What should we say then? **Gentiles**, who **did not pursue righteousness**, have **obtained** righteousness—namely the righteousness that comes from faith. But **Israel**, pursuing the law for righteousness, has not achieved the righteousness of the law. Why is that? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were by works. They **stumbled over the stumbling stone**.
- What's the basic problem for Israel?
- They have missed the point about how God wants his people operate.
- What is a **stumbling stone** or **stumbling block**?



Stumbling Blocks



- (Mt 16:23) Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a **stumbling block** to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”
- How is Peter a stumbling block for Jesus here?
- (1Cor 1:22-23) Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified: a **stumbling block** to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,
- How is the stumbling block working here?
- (1 Cor 8:9) Be careful, however, that the exercise of your rights does not become a stumbling block to the weak.
- And here?
- What personal application does this have for you?



Romans 9 – No distinction

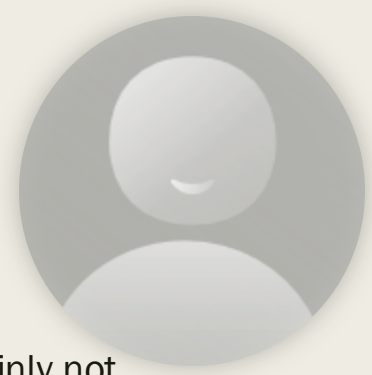


- (Rom 9:11-13) Now the Scripture says, **Everyone who believes on Him will not be put to shame**, for there is no distinction between **Jew and Greek**, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call on Him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved**.
- What is the flow of the argument here about “everyone”?
- It’s about accessibility of salvation not the mechanics.



Romans 10 – Righteousness by faith

- (Rom 10:1-5) Brothers, my heart's desire and prayer to God concerning them (*the Jews*) is for their salvation! I can testify about them that they have **zeal** for God, but not according to **knowledge**. Because they disregarded the righteousness from God and attempted to establish their **own** righteousness, they have not submitted themselves to God's righteousness. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.
- Zeal without knowledge. What does that mean and does it matter?
- What was their basic problem?
- Making up their **own** standards of righteousness.... What's the by-product of doing this?
- How might we be guilty of the same thing today?



Rom 10/Deut 30

- (Deut 30:11-16) This command that I give you today is certainly not too difficult or beyond your reach.
- It is not in heaven so that you have to ask, 'Who will go up to heaven, get it for us, and proclaim it to us so that we may follow it?' And it is not across the sea so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea, get it for us, and proclaim it to us so that we may follow it?'
- But the message is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may follow it.
- **See, today I have set before you life and prosperity, death and adversity.**
- For I am commanding you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commands, statutes, and ordinances, so that you may live and multiply, and the LORD your God may bless you in the land you are entering to possess.
- What is Moses saying here to the children of Israel just before entering the promised land?
- It's not too hard. You just need to listen and decide to love God and be the person who walks in his ways.



Romans 10



- *(Rom 10:6-8) But the righteousness that comes from faith speaks like this: **Do not say in your heart, “Who will go up to heaven?”** that is, to bring Christ down or, **“Who will go down into the abyss?”** that is, to bring Christ up from the dead. On the contrary, what does it say? **The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.** This is the message of faith that we proclaim:*
- So, what is the argument Paul is making here about the righteousness that is by faith?
- It’s not too hard. Don’t make it too hard for yourself or anyone else. You just need a heart that wants to walk in God’s ways.
- *(Rom 10:8-9) On the contrary, what does it say? **The message is near you, in your mouth and in your heart.** This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*
- In the light of Deut 30, what does this mean?
- Best understood as a life formula, not a conversion formula.



Romans 10



- (Rom 10:8b-13) This is the message of faith that we proclaim: If you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. One believes with the heart, resulting in righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, resulting in salvation. Now the Scripture says, **Everyone** who believes on Him will not be put to shame, for there is **no distinction between Jew and Greek**, since the same Lord of all is rich to all who call on Him. For **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**
- How do “the nations” fit in here?
- Net result?
- On the basis of faith you can’t draw your distinctions anymore to keep the Gentiles out. This is now available for everyone (Jew + Gentile)

Romans 11 – So be humble!




- (Rom 11:13-14) Now I am speaking to you **Gentiles**. In view of the fact that I am an **apostle to the Gentiles**, I magnify my ministry, if I can somehow make my own people jealous and save some of them..
- (Rom 11:25-27) So that you will not be **conceited**, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware of this **mystery**: A partial hardening has come to Israel until the **full number of the Gentiles has come in**. And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written:
*The Liberator will come from Zion; He will turn away godlessness from Jacob.
And this will be My covenant with them when I take away their sins.*
- *What does “all Israel will be saved mean” here?*
- *What would conceitedness look like here?*



Reflection



- What's one thing you have learnt today from our discussion?
- If I'm honest is my mindset more "sin" focussed or "spirit-focussed"?
- Am I a stumbling block in any way to others?
- How strongly do I connect "calling on the name of the Lord" with "walking in God's ways"?



NEXT TIME...NATIONS &
CALL V – ROMANS PART 3