



ASKING BETTER QUESTIONS -
GRAND THEMES 22 – NATIONS &
CALL VI

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



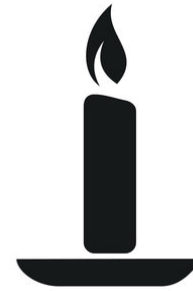
TEMPLE



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.
- Romans 8 – New Life in the Spirit
- Romans 9 – The way of faith, no distinction
- Romans 10 – Righteousness by faith



Romans 11 – Remnant of Israel

- (11:1) Did God reject his people? (The Jews). No!
- There is a remnant who has remained faithful – an elect.
- What then? What the people of Israel sought so earnestly they did not obtain. The **elect** among them did, but the **others were hardened**. (11:7)
- Again I ask: Did they stumble so as to fall beyond recovery? Not at all! Rather, **because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles** to make Israel envious. (11:11).
- There is still hope for the Jews, but also an opportunity for the Gentiles. Not a zero-sum game.

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?*



Romans 12 - Thinking differently



- New way of thinking
- Do not conform to the pattern of this , but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Rom 12:2)
- Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment. (Rom 12:3)
- For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. (Rom 12:4-5)
- Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. (Rom 12:13)
- Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited. (Rom 12:16)
- Dealing with enemies: do not repay evil for evil or take revenge. Live in peace. Overcome evil with good.
- What resonates here for you?



Rom 13 – Thinking differently - Authority



- Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. (Rom 13:1)
- Why are talking about this now?
- Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. (Rom 13:8)
- So, how should we be thinking if we want to fulfil the Law? (argument aimed at Jews?)
- Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh. (Rom 13:13-14) (argument aimed at Gentiles?)
- So how do “my rights”, “authority”, “love”, “behaviour” work together for you?



Romans 14 – messy family stuff



- Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. (Rom 14:1-3)
- Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any **stumbling block** or obstacle in the way of a brother or sister. (Rom 14:13-14)
- Let us therefore **make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification**. Do not destroy the work of God for the sake of food. All food is clean, but it is wrong for a person to eat anything that causes someone else to stumble. (Rom 14:19-20)
- Would I feel the need to correct someone who's faith is weak?



Romans 15 -



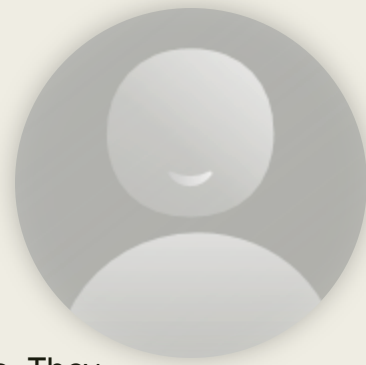
- Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. **As it is written:** "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name." **Again,** it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people." **And again,** "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him." **And again,** Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope"
- How many Scriptures?
- Making what point?
- How is Jesus' role portrayed here?
- Jesus had become a servant of the Jews so that promises to Abraham could be fulfilled with respect to the Gentiles.

Romans 15 – Sharing materially



- Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. (Rom 15:25-28)
- What is Paul organising and why?

Romans 16



- Greetings - Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the **Gentiles** are grateful to them.
- Greet Andronicus and Junia, my **fellow Jews** who have been in prison with me.
- Lots of Greek names.
- I urge you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them. For such people are not serving our Lord Christ, but their own appetites. (Rom 16:18-18)
- Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with my gospel, the message I proclaim about Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all the Gentiles might come to the obedience that comes from faith (Rom 16:25-26)
- What to do about those who want create division?
- Revelation of the mystery – see also Ephesians 3.



Reflection



- Has seeing God's plan unfold for the nations impacted you in any way?
- How would I go giving up something for the benefit of someone who's faith is weak?
- How many Scriptures would it take to convince me to accept some people?



NEXT TIME...THE SHEPHERD
AND THE SHEEP