

Romans Seminar Summer Institute June, 1986

The Basis of the Doctrine of Salvation in Romans from the OT

My subject is the OT background of the Gospel in the Book of Romans. We would almost have to cover the whole OT to deal properly with a subject like this because the OT and the NT are very closely related, closely connected in many ways. I think it was St. Augustine who said the New is in the Old Contained, the Old is by the New explained. The two fit together. We cannot really have one without the other.

Romans has a great deal of important and very interesting material, and it has a great many contacts with the OT. This morning I want to deal with three great truths around which great parts of Romans could be grouped, and I want to look at these truths a bit as they are contained in the OT.

The first of these is man's sin and its results. This is basic to the Book of Romans, in fact to the whole Bible. We find this brought out in many vv. in Romans. I want to call your attention to Rom. 1:18; 3:23. (Reading Rom. 1:18 and 3:23)

These thoughts are particularly stressed in the first ch. of Romans but they are background to the whole book. Their foundation, of course, is found in the OT.

The second great thought which is so prominent in the Book of Romans is Salvation through Christ. This is touched up and developed a great deal in Romans. I will only read one verse now--5:1 (Reading text). Wonderful thing to have peace with God against whom we have revolted, and possible only through what Jesus Christ did on the cross.

There is another theme in Romans which does not come up much in the first few chs., but a large part of several later chs. deal with it. We will touch upon it quite definitely, so I want to read five verses to bring out this emphasis particularly. That is 11:25ff. (reading text);

These three great themes occur a great deal in the OT. I want to look at the very beginning of the first of these: Man's Sin and its Results. We find that in Gen. 3, where we have the account of how sin came into the world. God had created Adam and Eve and put them in a perfect environment, left them free to do almost anything they want, left them free to eat many of the different kinds of delicious fruits that were available there except one. He gave them this very simple test: You must not eat of this particular tree. That one was forbidden. The fall was when they with such a simple test before them failed it when they failed in this regard. We find in Gen. 3:1 how the serpent tempted Eve. We read: The serpent said, Did God really say you must not eat of any tree in the garden?" Eve should not have listened to Satan in the first place. It's very easy to not let him get started leading us astray. How ready we are to just listen a little bit, just go a little ways