

**Bible Study Guide – Romans 15:1-33**  
 Bellevue Church of Christ – Spring / Summer 2018

**Neighbor:**

- \*Lev 19:18
- \*Mat 22:39-40
- \*Rom 13:8-9

**Neighbor = Weak Brother**

*Phil 2:5-11 "...emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men."*

**2Ti 3:16-17 ->**

**United Around Christ**

**Servant to the...**

- \*Mat 10:5-6, 15:24
- \*Mar 10:45

**Gen 12:3 ->**

**Christ accepts ALL who make up His body.**

*Satisfied (Rom 1:8): Paul's evidence must have come from a reliable source!*

**Apostle to the Gentiles:**

- \*Act 9:15, 22:21
- \*Gal 2:7-8
- \*Eph 3:6-12

The reason for Paul's **boldness**

No break in thought between chapters 14 & 15

**Gal 6:1-2**

<sup>1</sup>We who are **strong** have an obligation to **bear** with the failings of the **weak**, and **not to please ourselves**.

<sup>2</sup>Let each of us please his **neighbor** for his good, to build him up.

<sup>3</sup>For Christ **did not please himself**, but as it is written, "The **reproaches of those who reproached you fell on me**." <- Ps 69:9

<sup>4</sup>For whatever was written in former days was written for our **instruction**, that through **endurance** and through the **encouragement of the Scriptures** we might have **hope**.

<sup>5</sup>May the God of **endurance** and **encouragement** grant you to live in such **harmony** with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus,

<sup>6</sup>that **together** you may with **one voice** glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore welcome one another as **Christ has welcomed you**, for the glory of God.

<sup>8</sup>For I tell you that Christ became a **servant** to the **circumcised** to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs,

<sup>9</sup>and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among **the Gentiles, and sing to your name**." <- 2Sa 22:50; Ps 18:49

<sup>10</sup>And again it is said, "Rejoice, O **Gentiles, with his people**." <- Deu. 32:43

<sup>11</sup>And again, "Praise the Lord, all you **Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him**." <- Ps 117:1

<sup>12</sup>And again Isaiah says, "The **root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope**." <- Isa 11:1, 10

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

<sup>14</sup>I myself am **satisfied** about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

<sup>15</sup>But on some points I have written to you **very boldly by way of reminder**, because of the grace given me by God

<sup>16</sup>to be a **minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles** in the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

<sup>17</sup>**In Christ Jesus**, then, I have reason to be **proud** of my work for God.

**Phil 2:1-4** "count others more significant than yourselves"  
  
Unity requires a sacrifice of self!

**Endurance & Hope:**

- \*Rom 5:1-5
- \*Jam 1:2-4, 12
- \*Heb 6:13-20



**Goodness:**

- \*Gal 5:22

These Christians didn't just have the desire to do "good," but also knew the will of God to the point where they were able to instruct others. (Phil 1:9-10)

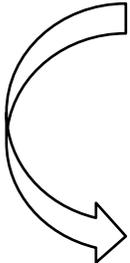
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Paul's pride and boasting are **ONLY** in Christ Jesus

**Signs and Wonders:**

\*Acts 14:3, 15:12  
\*2Co 12:12  
\*Heb 2:1-4

Inherent in Paul's commission to the Gentiles is to take the Gospel to those who have not heard it



**Paul's Project for Poor Christians in Jerusalem:**

\*1Co 16:1  
\*2Co 8-9  
**Why?**  
\*Acts 11:27-30  
\*Acts 8:1-3

Paul knew of the dangers that awaited him in Jerusalem  
**Acts 9:29-30, 20:3, 21:27-36**

<sup>18</sup>For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed,

<sup>19</sup>by the power of **signs and wonders**, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from **Jerusalem** and all the way around to **Illyricum** I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;

<sup>20</sup>and thus I make it my ambition to preach the gospel, **not where Christ has already been named**, lest I build on someone else's foundation,

<sup>21</sup>but as it is written, "*Those who have never been told of him will see, and those who have never heard will understand.*" <- **Isa 52:15**

<sup>22</sup>This is the reason why I have so often been **hindered** <- **Rom 1:13; Acts 16:7-8** from coming to you.

<sup>23</sup>But now, since I no longer have any room for work in **these regions**, and since I have longed for many years to come to you,

<sup>24</sup>I hope to see you in passing as I go to **Spain**, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.

<sup>25</sup>At present, however, I am going to Jerusalem **bringing aid to the saints**.

<sup>26</sup>For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

<sup>27</sup>For they were **pleased to do it**, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have come to share in their spiritual blessings, they ought also to be of service to them in material blessings.

<sup>28</sup>When therefore I have completed this and have delivered to them what has been collected, **I will leave for Spain** by way of you.

<sup>29</sup>I know that when I come to you I will come in the **fullness of the blessing** of Christ.

<sup>30</sup>I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your **prayers** to God on my behalf,

<sup>31</sup>that I may be **delivered from the unbelievers in Judea**, and that my service for Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints,

<sup>32</sup>so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company.

<sup>33</sup>May the God of peace be with you all. Amen.

**Illyricum** = a Roman province northwest of Macedonia

The boundaries of Paul's preaching ministry

**These Regions** = the boundaries of Paul's previous ministry efforts (v. 19)

**Spain** = Paul's continued desire to blaze new trails for the Gospel.

**Paul's Arrival in Rome**  
\*Acts 28:11-16

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**Romans Chapter 15 - Questions for Discussion**

***Memory Verse:***

***Romans 15:1 (ESV)***

*<sup>1</sup>We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves.*

In what sense do the strong in faith need to “bear” the failings of the weak? (v. 15:1)

Paul tells the Romans that they should strive to please their neighbors, but he puts a qualification on this statement. What is the qualification? (v. 15:2)

What is the root of the reason why Paul has presented this long section on dealing with Christian liberties? What should Christians strive to preserve? (vv. 15:5-9)

What was Paul’s reason for writing this letter? What was his opinion of the Roman Christians? Why did Paul feel compelled to write boldly? By what authority did he speak boldly? (vv. 15:14-1, 16:19)

What was Paul’s preferred soil? Why did this prevent Paul from going to Rome on many occasions? (vv. 15:20-21)

What task did Paul want to complete before visiting them? What request did Paul make of the Roman Christians concerning this task? What happened to Paul when he eventually reached Jerusalem? Did Paul ever make it to Rome? In what state? (vv. 15:23-33, II Cor 8 & 9, Acts 21 & 28)

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**Bear:**

Galatians 6:1–2 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. <sup>2</sup> Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

**Self Sacrifice:**

Philippians 2:1–4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. <sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

**Neighbor:**

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

<sup>18</sup> You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Matthew 22:39–40 (ESV)

<sup>39</sup> And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup> On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Romans 13:8–9 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> For the commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

**Jesus' Sacrifice:**

Psalms 69:9 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> For zeal for your house has consumed me, and the reproaches of those who reproach you have fallen on me.

Philippians 2:5–11 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

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**Instruction:**

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (ESV)

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

**Endurance and Hope:**

Romans 5:1–5 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

James 1:2–4 (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, <sup>3</sup> for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. <sup>4</sup> And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.

James 1:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

Hebrews 6:13–20 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> For when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself, <sup>14</sup> saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." <sup>15</sup> And thus Abraham, having patiently waited, obtained the promise. <sup>16</sup> For people swear by something greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. <sup>17</sup> So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he guaranteed it with an oath, <sup>18</sup> so that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. <sup>19</sup> We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, <sup>20</sup> where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.

**Servant to the Circumcised:**

Matthew 10:5–6 (ESV)

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, <sup>6</sup> but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 15:24 (ESV)

<sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

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Mark 10:45 (ESV)

<sup>45</sup> For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

**Christ Accepts All:**

Genesis 12:3 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

2 Samuel 22:50 (ESV)

<sup>50</sup> “For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing praises to your name.

Psalms 18:49 (ESV)

<sup>49</sup> For this I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations, and sing to your name.

Deuteronomy 32:43 (ESV)

<sup>43</sup> “Rejoice with him, O heavens; bow down to him, all gods, for he avenges the blood of his children and takes vengeance on his adversaries. He repays those who hate him and cleanses his people’s land.”

Psalms 117:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples!

Isaiah 11:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

Isaiah 11:10 (ESV)

<sup>10</sup> In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**Son of David:**

II Samuel 7:12-13

<sup>12</sup>When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Psalms 89:3-4

<sup>3</sup>You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant: <sup>4</sup>"I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations."

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Isaiah 9:6-7

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Isaiah 11:1-10

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

<sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

<sup>10</sup>In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

<sup>5</sup>"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup>In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Luke 1:26-33

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

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**Satisfied / Reliable Source:**

Romans 1:8 (ESV)

<sup>8</sup> First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world.

Galatians 5:22 (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Philippians 1:9–10 (ESV)

<sup>9</sup> And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,

**Apostle to the Gentiles:**

Acts 9:15 (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the children of Israel.

Acts 22:21 (ESV)

<sup>21</sup> And he said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’ ”

Galatians 2:7–8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> On the contrary, when they saw that I had been entrusted with the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been entrusted with the gospel to the circumcised <sup>8</sup> (for he who worked through Peter for his apostolic ministry to the circumcised worked also through me for mine to the Gentiles),

Ephesians 3:6–12 (ESV)

<sup>6</sup> This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. <sup>7</sup> Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup> To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup> and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, <sup>10</sup> so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup> This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup> in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

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**Signs and Wonders:**

Acts 14:3 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> So they remained for a long time, speaking boldly for the Lord, who bore witness to the word of his grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

Acts 15:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> And all the assembly fell silent, and they listened to Barnabas and Paul as they related what signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 12:12 (ESV)

<sup>12</sup> The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

Hebrews 2:1–4 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. <sup>2</sup> For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, <sup>3</sup> how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, <sup>4</sup> while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.

**Hindered:**

Romans 1:13 (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

Acts 16:7–8 (ESV)

<sup>7</sup> And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. <sup>8</sup> So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

**Paul's Project:**

1 Corinthians 16:1 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> Now concerning the collection for the saints: as I directed the churches of Galatia, so you also are to do.

2 Corinthians 8–9 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup> for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints— <sup>5</sup> and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. <sup>6</sup> Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. <sup>7</sup> But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and

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in our love for you—see that you excel in this act of grace also. <sup>8</sup> I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. <sup>9</sup> For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I give my judgment: this benefits you, who a year ago started not only to do this work but also to desire to do it. <sup>11</sup> So now finish doing it as well, so that your readiness in desiring it may be matched by your completing it out of what you have. <sup>12</sup> For if the readiness is there, it is acceptable according to what a person has, not according to what he does not have. <sup>13</sup> For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness <sup>14</sup> your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. <sup>15</sup> As it is written, “Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack.” <sup>16</sup> But thanks be to God, who put into the heart of Titus the same earnest care I have for you. <sup>17</sup> For he not only accepted our appeal, but being himself very earnest he is going to you of his own accord. <sup>18</sup> With him we are sending the brother who is famous among all the churches for his preaching of the gospel. <sup>19</sup> And not only that, but he has been appointed by the churches to travel with us as we carry out this act of grace that is being ministered by us, for the glory of the Lord himself and to show our good will. <sup>20</sup> We take this course so that no one should blame us about this generous gift that is being administered by us, <sup>21</sup> for we aim at what is honorable not only in the Lord’s sight but also in the sight of man. <sup>22</sup> And with them we are sending our brother whom we have often tested and found earnest in many matters, but who is now more earnest than ever because of his great confidence in you. <sup>23</sup> As for Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker for your benefit. And as for our brothers, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ. <sup>24</sup> So give proof before the churches of your love and of our boasting about you to these men.

<sup>1</sup> Now it is superfluous for me to write to you about the ministry for the saints, <sup>2</sup> for I know your readiness, of which I boast about you to the people of Macedonia, saying that Achaia has been ready since last year. And your zeal has stirred up most of them. <sup>3</sup> But I am sending the brothers so that our boasting about you may not prove empty in this matter, so that you may be ready, as I said you would be. <sup>4</sup> Otherwise, if some Macedonians come with me and find that you are not ready, we would be humiliated—to say nothing of you—for being so confident. <sup>5</sup> So I thought it necessary to urge the brothers to go on ahead to you and arrange in advance for the gift you have promised, so that it may be ready as a willing gift, not as an exaction. <sup>6</sup> The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. <sup>7</sup> Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. <sup>9</sup> As it is written, “He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” <sup>10</sup> He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup> You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. <sup>12</sup> For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. <sup>13</sup> By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, <sup>14</sup> while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. <sup>15</sup> Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

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Acts 11:27–30 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. <sup>28</sup> And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). <sup>29</sup> So the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. <sup>30</sup> And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 8:1–3 (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. <sup>2</sup> Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. <sup>3</sup> But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.

**Dangers in Jerusalem:**

Acts 9:29–30 (ESV)

<sup>29</sup> And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. <sup>30</sup> And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Acts 20:3 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia.

Acts 21:27–36 (ESV)

<sup>27</sup> When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, seeing him in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd and laid hands on him, <sup>28</sup> crying out, “Men of Israel, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against the people and the law and this place. Moreover, he even brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.” <sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple. <sup>30</sup> Then all the city was stirred up, and the people ran together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and at once the gates were shut. <sup>31</sup> And as they were seeking to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in confusion. <sup>32</sup> He at once took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. And when they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul. <sup>33</sup> Then the tribune came up and arrested him and ordered him to be bound with two chains. He inquired who he was and what he had done. <sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd were shouting one thing, some another. And as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks. <sup>35</sup> And when he came to the steps, he was actually carried by the soldiers because of the violence of the crowd, <sup>36</sup> for the mob of the people followed, crying out, “Away with him!”

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**Appendix A**

Jesus' Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy		
Description	NT Reference	Prophetic Passage(s) Cited/Fulfilled
The virgin birth	Matt 1:22–23	Isa 7:14 (LXX)
The Messiah originating from Bethlehem	Matt 2:5–6	Combination of Mic 5:2 and 2 Sam 5:2
The holy family escapes to Egypt	Matt 2:15	Hos 11:1
The massacre of the infants	Matt 2:17–18	Jer 31:15
The holy family settles in Nazareth	Matt 2:23	No clear OT referent; possibly alluding to Isa 11:1, or to the OT concept of a Nazirite (e.g., Judg 13:5, 7; 16:17; 1 Sam 2).
John the Baptist as precursor to Jesus	Matt 3:3; Mark 1:2–3; Luke 3:4–6	Combines elements of Mal 3:1; Isa 40:3; and Exod 23:20.
Jesus settles in Capernaum, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali	Matt 4:14–16	Isa 9:1–2
Jesus claims to fulfill the Law and the Prophets	Matt 5:17	No specific OT referent.
Jesus' ministry of healing and exorcism	Matt 8:17	Isa 53:4
Jesus appeals to Isaianic prophecy as proof that he is "the one coming to the world"	Matt 11:4–6; compare John 6:14	Likely based on Isa 29:18–19; 35:5–6; 61:1–2.
John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus	Matt 11:10; Luke 7:27	Based on Mal 3:1.
The secrecy of Jesus' ministry	Matt 12:17–21	Isa 42:1–4
Jesus offers the sign of Jonah	Matt 12:39–40; 16:4; Luke 11:29–30	Jesus here refers to the story of Jonah more broadly rather than to a specific prophetic quote.

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Jesus' Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy		
Description	NT Reference	Prophetic Passage(s) Cited/Fulfilled
The reason for Jesus' parabolic teaching	Matt 13:14–15; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10	Isa 6:9–10
More prophetic support for Jesus' parabolic teaching	Matt 13:35	Ps 78:2
Jesus sitting on a donkey's colt	Matt 21:4–5; John 12:15	Zech 9:9; see also Isa 62:11.
"Blessed is he (or, the king) who comes in the name of the Lord"	Mark 11:9; Luke 19:38; John 12:13	Psa 118:26
The suffering death of the Son of Man at the hands of Gentiles, and the resurrection	Luke 18:31–33	"the prophets."
The betrayal of the Son of Man	Matt 26:24; Mark 14:21	No clear OT references.
The desertion by the disciples	Matt 26:31; Mark 14:27	Based on Zech 13:7; compare Isa 53:6.
Jesus' violent arrest	Matt 26:56	"the scriptures of the prophets"
The chief priests use Judas' abandoned blood money to purchase a field.	Matt 27:9–10	Matthew attributes the quote to Jeremiah (possibly thinking of both Jer 18:1–3 and 32:6–15), though the text is a paraphrase of Zech 11:13.
The mistreatment of the Son of Man	Mark 9:12	No clear OT references. Perhaps based partly on Ps 22:7.
The rejection of Jesus	Mark 12:10–11; Acts 4:11; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:7	Ps 118:22–23
Jesus presents himself as a fulfillment of Isaianic scripture	Luke 4:18–21	Combines elements of Isa 61:1–2; 58:6.
Jesus "counted among the criminals"	Luke 22:37	Based on Isa 53:12.

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Jesus' Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy		
Description	NT Reference	Prophetic Passage(s) Cited/Fulfilled
The resurrected Jesus interprets scripture with reference to Himself	Luke 24:26–27	No clear OT reference.
“everything that is written about me ... must be fulfilled.”	Luke 24:44	“the law of Moses and the prophet and psalms.”
Jesus, the one about whom Moses and the prophets wrote	John 1:45	No explicit OT reference.
The cleansing of the temple	John 2:17	Ps 69:9
Moses wrote about Jesus	John 5:39, 40, 46, 47	No explicit OT reference.
Jesus is the prophet like Moses	John 6:14; Acts 3:22–23	Deut 18:15–20
The Messiah is descended from David, and from Bethlehem	John 7:42	Ps 89:4; Mic 5:2
Authorities deny that scripture predicts a prophet from Galilee	John 7:52	No explicit OT reference.
The rejection of Jesus	John 12:38–40	Quotes from Isa 6:10; 53:1
Hatred of Jesus	John 15:25	Likely based on Pss 35:19; 69:4; 109:3.
Roman soldiers divide Jesus' clothes and cast lots for his tunic	John 19:24	Psa 22:18
The Messiah must rise from the dead	John 20:9	No explicit OT reference.
Christ's death took place according to God's plan	Acts 2:23	Here “plan” may allude to prophetic fulfillment, i.e., that God's plan concerning Christ is discernible in the OT.
Christ's resurrection was spoken of by David	Acts 2:25–28	Ps 16:8–11

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Jesus' Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy		
Description	NT Reference	Prophetic Passage(s) Cited/Fulfilled
The Messiah's resurrection	Acts 2:31; 13:32–33; 26:22–23	Pss 2:7; 16:10
God, through the prophets, foretold the suffering of the Messiah	Acts 3:18	Referring back to the proof-texts in Acts 2:23–31.
Gentile authorities stand against the Messiah	Acts 4:25–26	Ps 2:1–2
Philip teaches the Ethiopian eunuch that Isaianic prophecy refers to Jesus	Acts 8:32–35	Isa 53:7–8
The prophets testify to Jesus and forgiveness of sins through his name	Acts 10:43	"the prophets."
Jesus the savior from the seed of David	Acts 13:22–23	No specific OT reference.
The death of the Messiah	Acts 13:29; Acts 26:22–23; 1 Pet 1:10–11	"the prophets and Moses" in Acts 26:22
The Messiah's resurrection and protection from corruption	Acts 13:34–35	Isa 55:3 (LXX); Ps 16:10
The gospel promised beforehand in the scriptures	Rom 1:2	"through his prophets."
The righteousness of God through faith in Christ is attested by the Law and the Prophets	Rom 3:21–22	"the law and the prophets."
"Out of Zion will come the Deliverer"	Rom 11:26–27	Isa 59:20–21
"Christ did not please himself"	Rom 15:3	Ps 68:10

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Jesus' Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy		
Description	NT Reference	Prophetic Passage(s) Cited/Fulfilled
Christ became a "servant of the circumcised" so that Gentiles would come to glorify God	Rom 15:9–12; Acts 26:22–23	Ps 18:49; Deut 32:43 (LXX); Ps 117:1; Isa 11:10 (LXX)
"Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures"	1 Cor 15:3–4	No specific OT reference.
Christ became a "life-giving spirit" as a natural development from the fleshly Adam	1 Cor 15:45	Gen 2:7
Christ became a curse	Gal 3:13	See Gen 12:3; Deut 27:15–26; 28:15–68.
God's Son was temporarily made "a little lower than the angels"	Heb 2:7	Ps 8:4–6
The Messiah's death and resurrection	1 Pet 1:10–11	"the prophets."

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<sup>1</sup> Barry, J. D., Grigoni, M. R., Heiser, M. S., Custis, M., Mangum, D., & Whitehead, M. M. (2012). *Faithlife Study Bible*. Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.