

Romans 15.4 – Things Written Aforetime

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⁴For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

There is a pervasive, strong commentary regarding Romans 15:4 that states functionally that the scriptures are “Written for learning; exclusively/just written for our learning and not our practice”.

The scriptures, in the context of the “Christian Cathedral of Faith”, Paul’s epistle to Rome, refers to:

- 1) Old Testament/Old Covenant Scriptures
- 2) The Law, The Prophets and the Psalms

- “The Scriptures” written aforetime were written:
 - 1) for our learning
 - Contextually the Church at Rome was primarily a Gentile church that included Jews and Gentile
 - The fall (rejection of the gospel of Christ) by Israel/the Hebrew nation, facilitated the salvation/entry into to the kingdom of God for Gentiles [Romans 11:11]
 - The entire text of Romans 11 address the aforetime scriptures message of God’s Plan of Salvation and Scheme of Redemption for Jews/Hebrews and Gentiles/All Nations
 - 2) that we (the Church at Rome/primarily Gentile) through the patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope
 - Gentile nations, prior to the new covenant preaching of the gospel of Christ were Ephesians 2:12
 - 1) aliens from the commonwealth of Israel
 - 2) strangers from the covenants of promise
 - 3) having no hope and without God in the world
- “The Scriptures” that were written aforetime were written:
 - A) Brought/Bring Hope to Gentiles through patience and comfort
 - Creation and the Edenic Covenant occurred around 4,000 BC
 - The established of the Church is dated by biblical scholarship at 30 AD/AD 30

- B) Facilitate/facilitated the ability of Gentiles [Romans 15:4 and Ephesians 2:12-13]
 - From aliens, strangers, hopeless and far off to near by the blood of Christ

Romans 15:4 is much more than “just written for our learning”; it confirms and validates the inclusion of the comfort and patience of “All Nations/Gentiles”, in a relationship of Salvation and Redemption with God.

A few passages that confirm and validate “scriptures aforetime/Old Testament Law, Prophets and Psalms as the foundational basis for the fulfillment of God’s revelatory Plan of Salvation and Scheme of Redemption:

Matthew 5:17-18 ¹⁷ **Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.** ¹⁸ For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.

Luke 24:44-47 ⁴⁴ **And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.** ⁴⁵ **Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,** ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 26:22-23 ²² **Having therefore obtained help of God, I continue unto this day, witnessing both to small and great, saying none other things than those which the prophets and Moses did say should come:** ²³ That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Acts 26:24-28 ²⁴ And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. ²⁵ But he said, I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness. ²⁶ For the king knoweth of these things, before whom also I speak freely: for I am persuaded that none of these things are hidden from him; for this thing was not done in a corner. ²⁷ **King Agrippa, believest thou the prophets? I know that thou believest.** ²⁸ Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.