

Bible reading

ROMANS

The book of Romans is traditionally believed to have been sent from Corinth, or from Philippi just prior to sailing to Troas as Paul says in 15:19 that he has preached as far as Illyricum. He also had with him the collection from the saints in Macedonia and Achaia for those in Jerusalem (15:26), where he was heading. Hence the letter was written on the third missionary journey around A.D.56.

The letter was sent to Rome by Phoebe, a deaconess of the church in Cenchrea (16:1). In the church the congregation was predominantly Gentile, however there were Jewish members also. It was possibly founded after Pentecost when the Jews from Rome returned to their towns (see Acts 2:10). Therefore the congregation were not an infant church.

Paul had been through much conflict in his preaching of the Gospel with both Jews and Gentiles and had defended again and again the Gospel of salvation by faith alone against the constant opposition of the Judaizers and against the moral laxness of the Gentile converts. The letter to the Romans deals with these ways of thinking.

1. Observe three repeated words/themes in this book.
2. Choose one of these repeated words/themes and interpret its significance to the original readers.
3. Briefly make an application to this.
4. Note one Old Testament reference that Paul uses and explain what argument he uses it for in his teaching.