

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOOK IN THE WORLD!

ROMANS

Rom. 3-4

ROM. 3:21-24: The Trail of Glory

- 1. The Bible begins and ends with one of the fundamental distinctions in God's Word: The Heavens and the Earth. (Gen. 1:1; Rev. 21:1)**
- 2. They were created "good" (i.e., God was satisfied that they displayed His Glory in the way He intended) (Gen. 1:1-2:3)**
- 3. But the Heavens and the Earth fell—by the rebellion of the angelic realm in Heaven and rebellion of man on the Earth—and no longer display His Glory the way He intended. (Ezek. 28; Is. 14; Gen. 2-3)**
- 4. The Bible is the revelation of God's plan to return creation to its original purpose of being reflectors of His Glory.**
- 5. This overarching Plan was comprised of two Purposes:**
 - a. His Purpose to re-establish His Glory on the Earth.**
 - b. His Purpose to re-establish His Glory in the Heavens.**

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- 6. God will fulfill His Purpose for the Earth by the Nation Israel in accord with what the Prophets had spoken about since the world began—Prophecy—as revealed in the O.T., Gospels, Ministry of the 12 in Acts and Hebrews through Revelation.**
 - a. Purpose: Earthly**
 - b. Program: Prophetic**
 - c. People: National Israel**

- 7. God will fulfill His Purpose for the Heavens by the Church, the Body of Christ, in accord with what had been KEPT SECRET since the world began—Mystery—as revealed in Paul's Epistles.**
 - a. Purpose: Heavenly**
 - b. Program: Mystery**
 - c. People: Body of Christ**

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- 8. Man's fundamental sin occurred when he rejected the Glory of God IN UNBELIEF—they were handed over to the evil desires of their darkened and foolish hearts and placed under the rule of Sin that results in death. (Rom. 1:18-23, 32)**
- 9. Eternal life, however, only belongs to those whose hearts continually seek/desire/are oriented toward God's Glory. (Rom. 2:7-10)**
- 10. In the light of Mystery Truth, the only Human who does not fall short of God's Glory is Jesus Christ, the God-Man, to Whom belongs the Glory forevermore. (Rom. 11:33-36; 1 Tim. 1:10-17)**
- 11. But fallen humanity only continually falls short of God's Glory. (Rom. 3:23)**

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- 12. Now, it is only in association with Christ that we become associated with God's Glory, continually seeking/desiring it, because only there all things are of, through and to Him—To Whom Be Glory Forever. (Rom. 11:36)**
- 13. Mankind's UNBELIEF led him away from God, dis-orienting him away from His Glory. (Rom. 1:18-23)**
- 14. Therefore, the only remedy God provides for a sinner to be re-oriented him to His Glory in Christ is BELIEF (FAITH).**
- 15. There is nothing the sinner can do to re-orient himself to God's Glory, not even Works of the Law. Therefore, it is a *Faith Without Works!* (Rom. 1:18-23; Rom. 3:19-20)**
- 16. *Faith (Without Works)* is the only remedy for those who are under Sin, have no righteousness of their own, and cannot do anything that pleases God. (Rom. 3:19-22)**

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- 17. But that doesn't mean Work wasn't required. It is a Faith *not in our own person and work* but Faith in the Person and Work of Christ on our behalf. (Rom. 3:22)**
- 18. God justifies on the basis of Grace through Christ and His Redemptive Work on the Cross by *Faith (Without Works)*. (Rom. 3:24)**
- 19. Like Abraham, we acknowledge their creaturely dependence on God as sinners, ungodly, unrighteous by *Faith (Without Works)*. (Rom. 4:5, 17)**
- 20. Like Abraham and David, God forgives their sins and accounts/reckons/imputes the sinner's *Faith (Without Works)* for Righteousness. (Rom. 4:5-8)**
- 21. This is what re-orientes us to His Glory and makes us reflectors of His Glory, fulfilling our creaturely purpose. (Rom. 4:20-22)**

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- 22. Now we become reflectors of His Glory when we believe the Promise He has given us today—that He will account our faith for righteousness if we believe on Him who raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification. (Rom. 4:23-25)**

- 23. Through the Risen Christ, believers are re-oriented to God's Glory. (Rom. 5:2)**

- 24. Identified with the Risen Christ, believers are brought into God's Glory. (Rom. 6:3-4; Jn. 13:31-32; 17:1-5)**

- 25. United to the Risen Christ, believers are glorified, being conformed to the image of His Son. (Rom. 8:29-30; 15:7)**

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- 26. Now, in Christ Jesus our Lord—the God-Man--by the Holy Spirit nothing can separate us from the Love of God. Our salvation is complete and eternally secure. (Rom. 8:29-39)**
- 27. God has brought believers back to His Glory and they will never fall short of it again!**
- 28. For Abraham and David, being reflectors of God's Glory will be from their position on earth.**
- 29. For us today in the Body of Christ, being reflectors of God's Glory will be from our position in the heavenlies. (Eph. 1-3)**
- 30. Together, in the end, when all has been fulfilled, the redeemed creation will once again fulfill its creaturely purpose in displaying God's Glory throughout the whole universe—the heavens and the earth.**