

How much can you cram into an opening paragraph? — Romans 1:1–7
Basil Howlett — Carey Baptist Church — 11 January 2009

Introduction

- Romans was not the first New Testament letter Paul wrote so why does it come first?
- Romans has made a big impact on many people. Give two examples.
- These introductory verses are packed with material. In fact, there are five miracles.

1. The Miracle of Paul (verse 1)

- What was his background? Galatians 1:13, Acts 22:3–11, Acts 26:4–18.
- How does he describe himself now?
- How did this change come about?
- What qualified Paul to be an apostle?
- When was Paul 'set apart'?

2. The Miracle of God's Promises in the Prophets (verse 2)

- What did Jacob promise in Genesis 49:10?
- What did Isaiah 7 promise?
- Why was the promise in Micah 5:2 so remarkable?
- What does Psalm 22 say about the death of Jesus?

3. The Miracle of the Incarnation of the Son of God (verse 3)

- Jesus was not just a good man who became the Son of God. He was the Son of God who became a perfect man, a descendant of David, born to be King.
- What Bible verses would you use to show that Jesus was and is the Son of God?

4. The Miracle of the Resurrection (verse 4)

- How can we be sure the disciples were not seeing an apparition or having a hallucination?
- He was raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit.
- This was a powerful declaration that he really was the Son of God.
- This was a declaration that he was Son of God with amazing power.
- Paul tells us three things about the risen Lord in verse 5. What are they?

5. The Miracle that had taken place in Rome (verses 6–7)

- There was a church there.
- How do you think did it come into being?
- Had Paul been involved in the planting of this church?