

# Romans 1:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

## Analysis

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**(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)**

The parenthetical nature of verses 2-4 shows Paul immediately grounding the gospel in redemptive history. The verb *proepēngeilato* (προεπηγγείλατο, 'promised beforehand') emphasizes the antiquity and divine orchestration of salvation—this is not a novel religion but the fulfillment of ancient promises. *Dia tōn prophētōn autou* (διὰ τῶν προφητῶν αὐτοῦ, 'through His prophets') indicates mediated revelation; God spoke through human instruments inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).

*En graphais hagiáis* (ἐν γραφαῖς ἁγίαις, 'in holy scriptures') affirms the written, authoritative, and sacred nature of Old Testament revelation. The adjective *hagiáis* (holy) distinguishes these texts from all other writings—they are set apart, divinely inspired, and infallible. This verse demolishes any notion of discontinuity between Old and New Testaments. The gospel proclaimed by Paul is the very thing Moses, Isaiah, and the psalmists anticipated. Jesus Himself declared, 'These are the Scriptures that testify about Me' (John 5:39). The promise-fulfillment schema is foundational to biblical theology.

## Historical Context

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First-century Christians, especially Jewish believers, needed assurance that faith in Jesus did not mean abandoning the Hebrew Scriptures. Paul's emphasis on

promise-fulfillment addresses this concern directly. The early church read the Old Testament Christologically, seeing prophecies of the Messiah throughout Genesis through Malachi. This interpretive framework was essential for evangelizing Jews and establishing theological legitimacy in a world suspicious of new religions.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the promise-fulfillment structure of Scripture strengthen your confidence in God's faithfulness to His current promises to you?
2. Where do you see Christ in the Old Testament Scriptures that Paul references here?
3. How might studying the Old Testament prophets deepen your understanding of the gospel Paul proclaimed?

## Interlinear Text

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ὁ	προεπηγγείλατο	διὰ	τῶν	προφητῶν	αὐτοῦ	ἐν
(Which	he had promised afore	by	G3588	prophets	G846	in
G3739	G4279	G1223		G4396		G1722

γραφαῖς	ἁγίαις
scriptures	the holy
G1124	G40

## Additional Cross-References

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**Titus 1:2** (Covenant): In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

**Luke 1:70** (Holy): As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

**Romans 16:26** (Word): But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

**Romans 3:21** (Word): But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

**Romans 3:2** (Parallel theme): Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

**Acts 10:43** (Prophecy): To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**Acts 26:6** (Covenant): And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers: