

The background of the slide is a light gray gradient with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

ROMANS 37 – WORKS STUMBLES OVER GRACE

DR. LEON L. SANDERS

ROMANS 9:27-10:4

PROLOGUE: GOD HAS INNATE AUTHORITY OVER MANKIND

- GOD CLEARLY STATES HE, AS CREATOR, HAS AUTHORITY IN AND OF HIMSELF TO MAKE PEOPLE AS HE WILLS
 - HE MAKES {ELECTS} SOME PEOPLE FOR SALVATION – HONORABLE VESSELS
 - HE DOES NOT MAKE {DOES NOT ELECT} OTHER PEOPLE FOR SALVATION – CHAMBER POTS
 - THIS IS NOT BASED ON THE WORKS OF ANY PERSON BUT ON THE WILL OF GOD
 - THE VESSELS OF WRATH ARE SHOWN MUCH PATIENCE THOUGH THEY ARE GOING TO DESTRUCTION BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN, WHICH THEY EMBRACE
 - THIS MAGNIFIES THE RICHES OF HIS GLORY AND MERCY REVEALED IN THOSE WHOM HE HAS SAVED: BOTH FROM THE JEWS AND THE GENTILES

PROLOGUE: LABORERS {SINNERS} COMPLAIN AGAINST GOD

- MASTER DEFENDS CLARIFIES THE ERROR OF THE LABORERS CLAIMS BEGINNING WITH HIS ADDRESS TO THEM
 - FRIEND {ἑταῖρος HETAIROS} SHOWS A LINK, A CONNECTION BETWEEN THE OWNER AND THOSE BEING ADDRESSED; A CONNECTION THAT IS ALSO HIERARCHICAL IN NATURE
 - MASTER ADDRESSES THEM GENTLY, BUT FIRMLY, TELLING THEM HE HAD NOT WRONGED THEM
 - ALL *AGREED* TO WORK FOR A DAY'S WAGES; ALL RECEIVED A DAY'S WAGES
 - COULD NOT THE MASTER DISPOSE OF HIS GOODS AS HE CHOSE
 - THEIR CHARGE ONLY SHOWED THEIR COVETOUSNESS, THEIR SIN WHICH THEY PROJECTED ONTO THE MASTER AS THE ONE DOING WRONG {SOUND FAMILIAR?}

PROLOGUE: LOST SEEK TO INFILTRATE INTO GOD'S SALVATION

- THE FATHER IS THE KING AND CHRIST IS THE SON WHILE THE FEAST IS FOR THE WEDDING BETWEEN THE SON AND HIS BRIDE {ALL SAVED} (RE 19:1-9; 21:1-3)
 - ANCIENT JEWISH WEDDING – ALL GUESTS WORE A SPECIAL GARMENT SHOWING THEY WERE INVITED AND THUS ENTITLED TO FOOD AND DRINK; UNINVITED WOULD NOT A GARMENT
 - THE *GARMENT* IS BEING CLOTHED IN CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH WOULD RESULT IN OUR WORKS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS BEING ATTRIBUTED TO HIM AND THE SPIRIT {CHARISMA}
 - THE LOST WOULD BE EXCLUDED BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE CLOTHED ONLY IN THEIR WORKS, FILTHY MENSTRUAL RAGS; I.E., THE WRONG BLOOD, BLOOD OF THE FLESH (IS 64:6; RE 20:11-15)
 - KING ADDRESSES THE LOST AS, *FRIEND*, GENTLY BUT FIRMLY HAS HIM EJECTED INTO DARKNESS
(RE 21:8, 22-27; 22:14-15, 17)

REMNANT OF ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

- SINCE THE 8TH CENTURY B.C. THE JEWS WERE TOLD THAT ONLY A REMNANT OF THEIR NATION WOULD BE SAVED (IS 10:22)
 - PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD BE THE REMNANT AND THE GREATER POPULATION WERE TOO IGNORANT TO UNDERSTAND AND **KEEP** GOD'S LAW (JO 7:32, 45-49)
 - CLASSIC LEGALISM TRAP: CONSIDERING ONE'S SELF THE MEASURE OF ALL RIGHTEOUS RATHER THAN GOD (2CO 10:12)
 - TRUE MEASURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS CHRIST, GOD WHO CAME IN THE FLESH, BECAME SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN TO PURCHASE RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THOSE WITHOUT HOPE
(HAB 2:1-4; RO 1:17; JO 1:1-18; 2CO 5:21)

SAND OF THE SEA – STARS OF THE HEAVENS

- ABRAHAM HAD TWO SETS OF OFFSPRING: SAND OF THE SEA AND STARS OF THE HEAVENS
 - OBVIOUS DICHOTOMY REFERENCE WAS ISHMAEL, SAND OF THE SEA, AND ISAAC, STARS OF THE HEAVENS; HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT THE ONLY DICHOTOMY IN VIEW BY ISAIAH (GE 22:17-18; GA 4:21-31)
 - ISAIAH HAS IN VIEW THE DESCENDANTS OF JACOB WHO WOULD ALSO FULFILL THE METAPHOR OF SAND AND STARS (GE 32:12; IS 10:22)
 - THOSE WHO WOULD BE AS THE *SAND OF THE SEA* WOULD REPRESENT THOSE WHO WOULD DIE IN THEIR SINS (HO 1:2-11)
 - THOSE WHO ARE AS THE *STARS OF THE HEAVENS* REPRESENT THOSE WHO LIVE BY FAITH (HAB 2:1-4)

SAND OF THE SEA – ISRAEL

- ACCORDING TO GOD THROUGH HOSEA, ISRAEL {NORTHERN KINGDOM} REPRESENTED THOSE WHO WERE AS THE *SAND OF THE SEA* FOR THEY EMBRACED IDOLATRY SINCE THE DAY OF THEIR REBELLION TO THE DAY OF THEIR DESTRUCTION AND BEYOND (2KI 17:7-18)
 - AFTER THEIR DEFEAT THE UPPER ECHELON WERE CARRIED INTO CAPTIVITY WHILE THE BULK OF THE POPULATION, VERY POOR, REMAINED IN THE LAND (2KI 17:21-23)
 - OTHER PEOPLES WERE ALSO RESETTLED IN THE NORTHERN KINGDOM (2KI 17:24)
 - ISRAEL'S IDOLATROUS PRIESTS WERE BROUGHT BACK TO *APPEASE* THE GODS OF THE LAND TO CONTROL THE DANGEROUS WILD ANIMAL POPULATION, CONTINUING THEIR ERROR (2KI 17:25-33)
 - THESE EVENTUALLY BECAME THE SAMARITANS; HATED BY THE RETURNING JEWS (JO 4:7-30)

SAND OF THE SEA – JUDAH

- JUDAH DID NOT LEARN FROM ISRAEL'S HISTORY AND CAPTIVITY BUT CONTINUED HER OWN IDOLATRY UNTIL SHE ALSO WAS SENT INTO CAPTIVITY, THOUGH ONLY FOR 70 YEARS (JE 20:1-6)
 - JUDAH CARRIED OFF IN THREE SUCCESSIVE WAVES UNTIL ONLY THE POOREST AND AFFIRM WERE LEFT IN THE LAND; AFTER 70 YEARS A PORTION OF THE PEOPLE RETURNED IN THREE WAVES
 - YET, EVEN DURING THESE DEPORTATIONS, THE ELITE OF JUDAH CONTINUED THEIR IDOLATRY EVEN WITHIN THE PRECINCTS OF THE TEMPLE ITSELF AS REVEALED BY EZEKIEL (EZ 8)
 - MANY OF THOSE WHO RETURNED DESPISED GOD THOUGH THEY ESCHEWED IDOLATRY; INSTEAD, THEY WORSHIPPED THE LAW AS THEIR GOD, **COVETING** SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS IDOLATRY
(MAL 1:6-10; 2:17; 3:13-15; COL 3:5)

BE LIKE SODOM AND GOMORRAH – DESOLATE

- PAUL QUOTES ISAIAH THAT IF GOD HAD DEALT WITH HIS PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE LAW, WHICH THEY NOW WORSHIPPED, NONE WOULD HAVE SURVIVED – SAND OF THE SEA

(JO 8:44; EZ 28:15-19; IS 14:11-17)

- THOSE OF THE EARTH, *SAND OF THE SEA*, ARE THOSE WHO ARE OF THEIR FATHER THE DEVIL: LIARS AND MURDERERS LIKE HIMSELF
- LUCIFER WAS OVER GOD'S THRONE, THE PINNACLE OF GOD'S CREATION, UNTIL MAN
- LUCIFER WANTED TO ASCEND ABOVE *STARS OF THE HEAVENS*; *BUT GOD THREW HIM TO THE EARTH*
- *ALL WHO REMAIN IN THEIR SIN WILL SUFFER HIS FATE IN THE LAKE OF FIRE* (RE 20:7-10)

DEVIL STANDS ON THE SAND OF THE SEA

- JOHN SEES THE DRAGON FROM THE GARDEN, SATAN, STANDING ON THE SAND OF THE SEA CALLING THE ANTICHRIST WHO RISES FROM THE SEA AND FALSE PROPHET, FROM THE EARTH
(RE 12:17-13:10)
 - SEAS ARE PICTURED AS RAGING AND MUST BE CONTAINED BY GOD LEST THEY BURST THEIR BONDS AND DESTROY THE LAND (PR 8:22-31; JOB 38:4-11)
 - GOD WIPED MAN FROM THE ANTEDILUVIAN EARTH VIA WATERY CATAclySM AS A METAPHOR OF MAN'S UNCONTROLLABLE RAGING SIN BRINGING HIM ONLY DESTRUCTION (GE 6:7-13; 7:11-23)
 - JUST AS GOD SAVED NOAH AND HIS FAMILY BY GRACE, SO ALSO GOD WILL SAVE THOSE WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN BY GRACE BASED SOLELY ON HIS WILL LEST ALL MANKIND BE DESTROYED BY FIRE AS SODOM AND GOMORRAH (GE 19; RE 20:7-10)

GOD IS IN THE HEAVENS

- BY CONTRAST, THOSE WHO ARE AS THE *STARS OF THE HEAVENS* HAVE THEIR ABODE WITH GOD OUTSIDE OF THIS CURRENT MATERIAL CREATION
 - SATAN'S GOAL WAS TO BE ABOVE THE HEAVENS; I.E., BE AS GOD BUT AS A CREATED BEING HE CAN **NEVER** BE AS GOD: HIS GOAL IS NIHILISTIC AS NO ONE CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT GOD
 - THIS METAPHOR INDICATES THAT THOSE WHO ARE SAVED WILL SHINE AS THE STARS IN THE HEAVENS (DA 12:3)
 - IN ETERNITY FUTURE THERE WILL BE NO SUN, MOON NOR STARS FOR CHRIST'S GLORY WILL PROVIDE ALL LIGHT FOR THE REDEEMED (RE 21:22-27; 22:3-6)
 - THE LOST ARE EXCLUDED AS THEY ARE IN THE LAKE OF FIRE PREPARED FOR SATAN AND DEMONS (MT 25:41)

HOW DID THE GENTILES RECEIVE GRACE?

- THE GENTILES DID NOT HAVE THE LAW, DID NOT HAVE A HISTORY OF RECEIVING GOD'S GRACE AND INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS: HOW DID THEY RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE?
 - WITHOUT THE LAW, INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE GENTILES HAD NO HOPE
 - THEY WERE IN UTTER DARKNESS AND WOULD REMAIN SUCH UNLESS GOD BRINGS THEM LIGHT
(IS 9:1-2; EP5:7-8)
 - SINCE THE GENTILES HAD NO LAW, NO HOPE, GOD BROUGHT THEM HOPE IN CHRIST APART FROM THE LAW WHICH COULD NEVER IMPART RIGHTEOUSNESS; ONLY REVEAL CHRIST'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - EVEN THE JEWS WERE INFORMED THAT THE RIGHTEOUS CAN ONLY LIVE BY FAITH (HAB 2:1-4)

HOW DID THE JEWS MISS GRACE?

- JEWS MISCONSTRUED THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW, BELIEVING THAT BY KEEPING THE LAW THEY WERE OBTAINING GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS; THUS, MOST DID NOT LIVE BY FAITH
 - MORAL LAW SHOWED THE RIGHTEOUSNESS NECESSARY TO PLEASE GOD (MT 5:19-20)
 - THEY IGNORED GOD'S SELF-PROCLAMATION OF BEING A GOD OF MERCY AND GRACE (EX 34:6-10)
 - SEEKING TO *PROVE* ONE'S RIGHTEOUSNESS IS SUFFICIENT INFLAMES ONE'S SIN NATURE: PRIDE
 - MOST JEWS, ESPECIALLY POST-BABYLON, DID NOT SEEK GOD'S GRACE BUT SOUGHT TO ESTABLISHED THEIR OWN WHICH MADE THEIR FLESH STRONGER, MORE PRIDEFUL (COL 2:20-23)
 - THEY EMBRACED THEIR SIN RATHER THAN UNDERSTAND THEY WERE DEFEATED BY THEIR SIN NATURE

PARABLE – PHARISEE AND TAX COLLECTOR

- CHRIST TOLD THIS PARABLE TO ILLUSTRATE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *TRUE* AND *FALSE* JEWS
(LK 18:9-14)
 - BOTH MEN WERE IN THE TEMPLE PRAYING – KEEPING THE LAW NOT THE ISSUE
 - PHARISEE PRAYED THANKING GOD FOR HIS OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH HE *WRONGLY* ATTRIBUTED AS A GIFT FROM GOD
 - TAX COLLECTOR BEGGED FORGIVENESS FOR HIS SIN OF WHICH HE WAS ALL TOO CONSCIOUS
 - **OUTWARDLY**, NO ONE COULD TELL WHICH WAS TRULY RIGHTEOUS AND WHICH WAS NOT
 - GOD ALONE KNOWS THOSE WHO COME BEGGING FORGIVENESS AS THEIR SIN WEIGHS THEM DOWN WITH FEAR OF JUDGMENT; LOVE CASTS OUT THAT FEAR (1JO 4:18)

THE STUMBLING STONE

- SINFUL MEN, INCLUDING THOSE WHO SEEK TO ESTABLISH THEIR RIGHTEOUSNESS VIA LAW, WHICH ONLY CONDEMNS THEM, IGNORE GOD'S MORAL LAW JUSTIFYING THEIR SINFULNESS

(IS 28:15-19)

- SINFUL PEOPLE MAKE A COVENANT WITH LIES AND DEATH TO ESTABLISH A KINGDOM AGAINST GOD'S KINGDOM BUT FIND ONLY TERROR
- GOD'S KINGDOM PREVAILS BECAUSE IT IS BUILT ON HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS AS ESTABLISHED BY CHRIST WHO BECAME SIN TO PURCHASE PARDONS FOR THOSE WHO KNEW ONLY SIN
- THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS REJECT THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD AS IT SHOWS THEIR WORKS TO BE WORTHLESS MENSTRUATED RAGS (PUTRID BLOOD OF DEATH) (IS 64:6)

BUILDERS REJECT GOD'S STONE

- THE BUILDERS OF SATAN'S KINGDOM ON EARTH, WHERE HE WAS EXILED, HAVE REJECTED GOD'S CORNERSTONE, CHRIST (PS 118:22-24; RE 12:7-12)
 - JEWS WERE BUILDING THEIR OWN NATION AND REJECTED THE SALVATION OFFERED BY CHRIST AS IT DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO BECOME MASTERS OVER ALL PEOPLES AS CONTAINED IN THE TALMUD (IS 8:11-15)
 - THEY WERE NOT SEEKING GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH PRODUCES HUMILITY (MT 5:2-12)
 - THEY WERE SEEKING A KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH BEFITTING OF THEIR SIN RATHER THAN A HEAVENLY KINGDOM AS THEIR FAITHFUL FOREFATHERS (HE 11:13-16, 39-40)

ONLY A REMNANT SHALL BE SAVED

- GOD, THROUGH ISAIAH, PROMISED THAT ONLY A REMNANT SHALL BE SAVED THOUGH THEY BE AS THE *SAND OF THE SEA* (IS 10:22-23)
 - THERE IS HOPE FOR HIS PEOPLE FOR GOD WILL COME AGAIN FOR HIS PEOPLE AT HIS APPOINTED TIME AND CALL THEM, “CHILDREN OF THE LIVING GOD” (HO 1:10-11)
 - A *STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS* WILL DESTROY THE KINGDOM OF SATAN AND SINNERS ON EARTH (DA 2:32-35; RE 20:7-10)
 - JEWS EVEN TODAY STILL STUMBLE OVER CHRIST BUT GOD WILL CALL FORTH A REMNANT AT THE TIME OF HIS CHOOSING TO CARRY FORTH THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL (HAB 2:1-3; RE 12:12-14; 14:1-5)

EPILOGUE: REMNANT OF ISRAEL WILL BE SAVED

- SINCE THE 8TH CENTURY B.C. THE JEWS WERE TOLD THAT ONLY A REMNANT OF THEIR NATION WOULD BE SAVED
 - PHARISEES AND SADDUCEES BELIEVED THAT THEY WOULD BE THE REMNANT AND THE GREATER POPULATION WOULD BE TOO IGNORANT TO UNDERSTAND AND **KEEP** GOD'S LAW (JO 7:32, 45-49)
 - CLASSIC LEGALISM TRAP: CONSIDERING ONE'S SELF THE MEASURE OF ALL RIGHTEOUS RATHER THAN GOD (2CO 10:12)
 - TRUE MEASURE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS CHRIST, GOD WHO CAME IN THE FLESH, BECAME SIN WHO KNEW NO SIN AND PURCHASE RIGHTEOUSNESS FOR THOSE WHO HAD NO HOPE
(HAB 2:1-4; RO 1:17; JO 1:1-18; 2CO 5:21)

EPILOGUE: DEVIL STANDS ON THE SAND OF THE SEA

- JOHN SEES THE DRAGON FROM THE GARDEN, SATAN, STANDING ON THE SAND OF THE SEA CALLING THE ANTICHRIST WHO RISES FROM THE SEA (RE 12:17-13:10)
 - SEAS ARE PICTURED AS RAGING AND MUST BE CONTAINED BY GOD LEST THEY BURST THEIR BONDS AND DESTROY THE LAND (PR 8:22-31; JOB 38:4-11)
 - GOD WIPED MAN FROM THE ANTEDILUVIAN EARTH VIA WATERY CATAclySM AS A METAPHOR OF MAN'S UNCONTROLLABLE RAGING SIN BRINGING ONLY DESTRUCTION (GE 6:7-13; 7:11-23)
 - JUST AS GOD SAVED NOAH AND HIS FAMILY BY GRACE, SO ALSO GOD WILL SAVE THOSE WHOM HE HAS CHOSEN BY GRACE BASED SOLELY ON HIS WILL LEST ALL MANKIND BE AS DESTROYED BY FIRE AS SODOM AND GOMORRAH (GE 19; RE 20:7-10)

EPILOGUE: BUILDERS REJECT GOD'S STONE

- THE BUILDERS OF SATAN'S KINGDOM ON EARTH, WHERE HE WAS EXILED, HAVE REJECTED GOD'S CORNERSTONE, CHRIST (PS 118:22-24; RE 12:7-12)
 - JEWS WERE BUILDING THEIR OWN NATION AND REJECTED THE SALVATION OFFERED BY CHRIST AS IT DID NOT ALLOW THEM TO BECOME MASTERS OVER ALL PEOPLES AS CONTAINED IN THE TALMUD (IS 8:11-15)
 - THEY WERE NOT SEEKING GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH PRODUCES HUMILITY (MT 5:2-12)
 - THEY WERE SEEKING A KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH BEFITTING OF THEIR SIN RATHER THAN A HEAVENLY KINGDOM AS THEIR FAITHFUL FOREFATHERS (HE 11:13-16)

CHRISTENDOM LITTLE BETTER THAN JUDAISM

- CHURCH HISTORY HAS SHOWN THAT MANY WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS ARE SIMPLY FOLLOWERS OF SATAN SEEKING TO ESTABLISH HIS KINGDOM ON EARTH
 - CHRISTENDOM, WORKS-BASED RELIGIONS, PRODUCE THE PRIDE OF COVETOUSNESS SEEKING DOMINATION OVER ALL OTHERS; I.E., SLAVERY: THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE MASTER – SATAN
 - MANY CHRISTIANS TODAY ARE MISTAKENLY TAUGHT THEY ARE SUPERIOR TO ALL OTHERS BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE TRUE FAITH; BUT, THEY SEEK ONLY THEIR OWN LUST FULFILLMENT LIKE *FALSE* JEWS
 - JUST AS IT IS TRUE OF THE JEWS, ONLY A REMNANT OF THOSE WHO CALL THEMSELVES CHRISTIANS WILL ACTUALLY BE CLAIMED AS HIS CHILDREN, THE REMAINDER WILL BE REJECTED AS LIARS LIKE THEIR FATHER THE DEVIL – WHICH ARE YOU? (MT 7:21-23; JO 8:44)