

ACTS 28

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

IN THE HEART OF THE EMPIRE

Afterward Paul felt compelled by the Spirit to go over to Macedonia and Achaia before going to Jerusalem. “And after that,” he said, “I must go on to Rome!”

ACTS 19.21 NLT

The dispute [in Jerusalem] became so violent that the commander was afraid Paul would be torn to pieces by them. He ordered the troops to go down and take him away from them by force and bring him into the barracks. The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.”

ACTS 23.10-11

FINALLY, ROME!

- ▶ For two years, Paul was held in custody by the Roman administration for the Province of Syria. This afforded Paul the opportunity to share his testimony and the gospel with numerous officials.
- ▶ Paul asserted his right as a Roman citizen to appeal his case directly to Caesar. He was placed in the custody of an Imperial Regiment captain to be escorted to Rome, accompanied by Luke and Aristarchus.
- ▶ Due to weather delays, storms, and finally, a shipwreck at Malta, it was a year before they finally arrived in Rome.
- ▶ In Rome, Paul was allowed to rent a house, guarded by a soldier; this provided him with a missions base for the next two years.



They arranged to meet Paul on a certain day, and came in even larger numbers to the place where he was staying. He witnessed to them from morning till evening, explaining about the kingdom of God, and from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets he tried to persuade them about Jesus. . . . For two whole years Paul stayed there in his own rented house and welcomed all who came to see him. He proclaimed the kingdom of God and taught about the Lord Jesus Christ . . .

ACTS 28.23, 30

In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

ACTS 1.1-3

From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near” . . . [He] went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

MATTHEW 4.17, 23-24

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

*“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles—
the people living in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of the shadow of death
a light has dawned.”*

MATTHEW 4.12-16

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.*

*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.*

*And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

*He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.*

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

ISAIAH 9.2, 6-7

Giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light. For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

COLOSSIANS 1.12-14

And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals,

because You were slain,

and with your blood You purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God,

and they will reign on the earth.”

REVELATION 5.9-10

KINGDOM THEOLOGY 101

- ▶ There are only two kingdoms; they are invisible, supernatural, and strive for power and control over the mindset, behavior, and destiny of human beings.
- ▶ These two kingdoms are the antithesis of each other and reflect the nature of their kings: light/darkness, righteousness/evil, justice/injustice, blessing/cursing, life/death.
- ▶ Everyone, without exception, is born into the kingdom of darkness and evil, possesses the nature of the king of darkness, and is destined to share in his future of defeat and death.
- ▶ No one can escape the dominion of darkness—period. Nothing less than a gracious act of the almighty King of Righteousness can liberate one from its power.
- ▶ Jesus, the King of Life, came to invade the kingdom of death and reverse the effects of the dark kingdom on the lives and destiny of each person.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- ▶ When one is rescued from the dominion of darkness, one experiences a change of heart, receives a new nature and possesses a new destiny: eternal life.
- ▶ There is no mistaking those who belong to the Kingdom of God; they live by a different set of values and seek the priorities and purposes of their King.
- ▶ The kingdom of darkness and evil will bitterly and relentlessly oppose those who belong to the Kingdom of Light and Righteousness; by standing firm and making no compromise with the kingdom of darkness, they will overcome and be honored by their King.
- ▶ The kingdom of darkness and all who are allied with it—*“anyone whose name was not found written in the Book of Life”*—will be catastrophically defeated by the King of kings and subjected to eternal punishment, while those who are true to the King of Life will share in His eternal future.
- ▶ The gospel of Jesus Christ is the good news of the King and His kingdom and He has commanded us to take this news everywhere to everyone. Nothing is more important to Him.