

A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke
Teaching #26: Jerusalem's Redemption: Part Three
Luke 2:38

In our previous studies, we have been examining the redemption of Jerusalem.

The redemption of Jerusalem and Israel is mentioned **three times** in Luke.

First Mention – By Anna

[...when Anna] *spoke about the child [Jesus] to all who were looking forward to **the redemption of Jerusalem*** (Luke 2:38).

Second Mention – By Jesus

Luke 21:20-28

[Jesus said,] *“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city...At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because **your redemption is drawing near.**”*

Most scholars agree that these words of Jesus are about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem by the Rome armies in AD 70. Those whose redemption was *drawing near* were the Jewish believers who would be delivered from the destruction in Jerusalem as they heeded Jesus' instruction to stay out of the city of Jerusalem and flee to the surrounding mountains.

In previous studies, we have noted that the redemption of believers from Jerusalem in 70 AD is much like the redemption of the Jewish people in 1500 BC who were freed from Egyptian bondage when God, through Moses, led them out of Egypt and to the Promise Land – Canaan.

We have labeled the redemption from Egypt **The First Redemption/Exodus** and the redemption out of Jerusalem **The Second Redemption/Exodus**.

The third mention of redemption in Luke is...

Third Mention – By The Two Men On The Road To Emmaus

Luke 24:21

*“...we [the two men on the road to Emmaus] had hoped that he [Jesus] was the one who was going to **redeem** Israel.”*

This redemption is referring to the hopes of the Jewish people in 33 AD who were hoping that Jesus would be the Christ of the Jewish Scriptures who would set the Jewish people free from Roman rule by leading the nation of Israel to gain their independence from Roman rule in the Promised Land. When Jesus did not lead

the nation to freedom and independence, the two men on the road to Emmaus, as well as many of the Jewish people, were very disappointed.

As we continue to study the topic of the redemption of Jerusalem, its understanding will become more clear.

To have a clearer understanding of the redemption of Jerusalem, we need to understand the:

- The **CURSES** of the old testament the law of Moses in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28 ([see studies #24 and #25](#) – God would send a nation to judge Israel if they turned away from the law).
- The **PROPHECY** concerning old testament Israel by Daniel in Daniel 2 and Daniel 9:24-26 (the 70 weeks of Daniel). This prophecy concerned Israel during the time of the old testament of law. God prophesied through Daniel that he would bring an end to the age of the law, therefore making it an old testament. The ending of the law occurred when Jesus died on the cross to establish the new testament; yet the age of the law continued until 70 AD, when judgment came upon old testament unbelieving Israel for their rejection of Jesus as the Christ and their persecution of the believers in Jesus. We have examined this persecution in studies #24-25. The Book of Revelation contains the description of the judgment on Jerusalem in 70 AD. The writings of Josephus provide a historical account of the judgment.

The prophecy of Daniel 9:24-26 (the 70 weeks of Daniel) begins in Daniel 2 and explains how Israel came under the dominion of Rome.

This prophecy is shown through the image of a statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, which Daniel interpreted.

Note: We began our study on the Statue and Four Kingdoms in previous studies.

The Prophecy of the Statue and Four Kingdoms

The Four Kingdoms of the Statue

The prophecy of the Statue revealed **Four Kingdoms**.

Kingdom #1: Gold Head – Babylon (605 BC to 539 BC)

Kingdom #2: Silver Arms and Chest – Medes and Persians (539 BC to 332 BC)

Kingdom #3: Bronze Waist – Greece (332 BC to 62 BC)

Kingdom #4: Legs of Iron (Rome) and Feet Mixed With Clay (the corrupt leadership of Israel mixed in with the leadership of Rome) – Rome and Israel (63 BC to 70 AD).

The Prophecy of the Fifth Kingdom Outside the Statue

The Fifth Kingdom Outside The Statue

Outside of the statue was a **Fifth Kingdom**.

Kingdom #5: The Kingdom of God/Heaven – A Rock (Stone) That Would Become A Mountain And Fill The Whole Earth

This kingdom begins as a **Stone**.

The Stone crushes the feet of the Forth Kingdom of iron mixed with clay, establishing a kingdom that grows to fill the whole world.

This **STONE** (Jesus) becomes a **MOUNTAIN** that fills the whole earth (with grace).

In Parts 1-2 (Luke #24-#25), we began examining this Stone that became a Mountain that fills the whole earth with grace.

We examined how the gospel of grace grew as a mountain of grace, filling the whole earth with the truth of God's grace as seen in **Colossians 1:5-8** and **2 Corinthians 4:15** (see teaching #25).

Let's review God's growing mountain of grace, starting in **Daniel 2:34-35**.

*"While you were watching, a **rock** [stone] was cut out, but not by human hands. It struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and smashed them [In AD 70, God destroyed the corrupt alliance between the Roman Empire and corrupt Israel, consisting of the chief priests and Pharisee that existed in the days of Jesus and following the days of Jesus– see Matthew 21:44-45]. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were all broken to pieces and became like chaff on a threshing floor in the summer. The wind swept them away without leaving a trace. But the rock [stone] that struck the statue became a huge **mountain** and filled the whole earth [the mountain is the spiritual kingdom of grace established by Jesus as the chief **cornerstone** that grows throughout the whole world as more and more people place their faith in Jesus– see Ephesians 2:1-22; 2 Corinthians 4:15; Colossians 1:5-6, 12-14].*

As this **message of grace** is communicated the **mountain of grace** grows, filling the earth with God's grace.

Let's examine God's growing mountain of grace, starting in **Daniel 2:34-35**.

The Mountain of Grace Continues To Grow Today

The mountain of God's grace continues to grow today as the message of God's grace goes out to the world.

As this **message of grace** is communicated the **mountain of grace** grows, filling the earth with God's grace.

How Did The Message Of God's Grace Begin To Fill The Whole World During The First Century?

1. Jesus **REVEALED** to Paul the message of God's grace.

Acts 20:22-24

*And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete **the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news [the gospel, the message] of GOD’S GRACE.***

Galatians 1:11-12

*I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, **I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.***

Galatians 4:4-7

*But when the time had fully come [the time for the law to be done away with had come – the prophecy of Daniel 9:24-26], God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **to redeem those under the law** [Jesus came to set the people of Israel free from the law – the Gentiles were not under the law, but by faith were recipients of the grace of Jesus], that we might receive our adoption as sons [close relationship with God that the law could not do]. And because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying out, “Abba, Father! [close, loving relationship with God]” So you are no longer a slave [to the law – Exodus - Deuteronomy], but a son [loved son or daughter]; and since you are a son, you are also an heir through God [of all God has done for you through Jesus – an heir works for nothing, but receives everything! We are heirs of the work of Jesus – we receive forgiveness, righteousness, and reconciliation to God by grace through faith in Jesus].*

This was the message of grace Jesus revealed to Paul and that he taught others. An example of this is in Acts 13:38-39 when Paul was asked to speak in a synagogue. Little did they know what the message would be that Paul would proclaim, the gospel of grace!

Acts 13:38-39

Therefore let it be known to you, brothers [unbelieving Jewish brothers and sisters], that through Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you [compare with Acts 26:18]. Through Him everyone who believes is justified [receives forgiveness of sins – eternally cleared sin record, is sanctified – eternally cleansed heart – eternally declared innocent of sins and eternally declared righteous by God] from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

Acts 13:42-43

*As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people invited them to speak further about these things on the next Sabbath. When the congregation was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed **Paul and Barnabas, who talked with them and urged them to continue in the grace of God.***

The message of grace (justified by faith not by law nor by a mixture of law and grace) was not a popular message in the old testament world of Paul and Barnabas, which is why he and believers in Jesus were persecuted by the unbelievers in Israel (see Acts 13-14, as well as Acts 21, and other parts of Acts – Paul was persecuted in most all the cities he went into because of his grace message).

NOTE: **Not** all of Israel were unbelievers. Some were believers in Jesus. Those in Israel who were unbelievers (the clay of the Iron Kingdom Mixed With Clay) persecuted those in Israel who were believers...such as with Stephen (a believing Jew) when the Sanhedrin (the unbelieving Jewish ruling assembly - Clay) stoned him to death (Acts 7).

We see the persecution of believers in Acts 20:29-32.

Acts 20:29-32, we see the clay of the Fourth Kingdom persecuting believers in Jesus.

Acts 20:29-32

"I know that after my departure, savage wolves [those who opposed Jesus as the Christ and the new testament he established with his blood] will come in among you [assembly of believers in Ephesus] and will not spare the flock [they will persecute believers]. Even from your own number [arising from the assembly of believers in Ephesus], men will rise up and distort the truth [some would arise from within the assembly of believers in Ephesus to seek to prove that Jesus is not the Christ – see 1 John 2:18-23 – In 1 John, John was writing about those in Ephesus who arose from within the assembly and were leading others astray – those rising up were anti-christs, meaning denying Jesus as the Christ of the Jewish Scriptures] to draw away disciples after them. Therefore be alert and remember that for three years I [Paul] never stopped warning each of you [warning the leaders in Ephesus about the violent opposition to the gospel of grace and to Jesus being the Christ that would come] night and day with tears [the coming attacks by unbelieving Jews...those who rejected Jesus and the gospel of grace...the coming attacks brought tears to Paul because he knew it would be a violent attack – those who died in these attacks are the martyrs of Revelation 2:3, 6:9-11; 17:6]."

In view of the coming attacks, Paul said the following words to church leaders in Ephesus.

"Now I [Paul] commit you [the leaders of the church in Ephesus] to God and to the word of his grace [justification (declared innocent of all sins) by grace through faith apart from the law; grace is everything God has done for us through the new testament established in the blood of Jesus when he poured out his blood on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins; forgiveness and righteousness are received by faith; God sends the Spirit of Jesus into our hearts so that we relate to God as our loving Father; we have been made alive with Christ, seated with Christ; the message of grace is also Jew and Gentile in one family of grace, the spiritual temple of grace as Paul explained in Ephesians 2:11-22], which can build you up [the truths of the message of grace build us up] and give you an inheritance [we receive for free what Jesus did for us through his finished work] among all those who are sanctified [see Acts 26:18 – we are sanctified by faith – made holy cleansed from all sins by the blood of Jesus]."

In the Bible, the word **grace** is used about **7** times during the life of Jesus and before the cross of Jesus, but **after his death**, resurrection, and ascension, it is used about **150** times. Most of the uses are by Paul when he educated believers about the gospel of God's grace.

Paul, having been sent by the ascended Jesus, communicated the gospel of grace in cities all over the Roman Empire. This is recorded in the Book of Acts.

Remember, Jesus is the **Stone** of Daniel 2.

The **Growing Mountain** is the message of grace that reaches people. When a person trusts in Jesus, the mountain of grace becomes larger.

Jesus delivered the message of grace to Paul:

- Paul took the message of grace **into the Roman Empire** (the Iron and Clay Kingdom)

- The message of grace grew **into a huge mountain** that filled the earth by filling the hearts of people.

As we examine how the Stone of Daniel 2 became a huge mountain of grace throughout the world, let's continue to examine Jesus' revelation of grace to Paul.

Ephesians 3:1-6

*Surely you [the believers in Ephesus] have heard about **the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation**, as I have already written briefly [in Ephesians 1-2]. In reading this [Paul's letter to the Ephesians], then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ [the message of grace, Jews and Gentiles in one family of grace – the spiritual temple of God that expands into all nations – Ephesians 2:11-22], which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now [in the Generation of Paul] been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy [holy means those who God selected to carry the message of grace – holy means God had a special task for them and set them apart to fulfill that task] *apostles* [the selected, set apart apostles of Jesus who were once twelve disciples, and the other apostles, such as Paul, Barnabas, Silas, and Timothy – who communicated the identity of Jesus as the Christ to the nations and the gospel of grace to the nations.] and *prophets* [those who spoke forth the gospel of grace and the identity of Jesus as the Christ]. This mystery [of the grace of Jesus bringing Jews and Gentiles together on one new family of grace apart from the law – Ephesians 2:11-22] is that through the gospel [the message of grace] the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus [see Ephesians 2:11-21].*

Jesus taught Paul the gospel of grace (AD 36-39).

Paul taught the gospel of grace to others.

Eventually, the Spirit revealed the gospel of grace to the 12 apostles of Jesus (AD 40).

When Jesus was with his disciples, just prior to his arrest, he had much he wanted to communicate to them. Yet it was not the time. He told them that **later the Spirit would guide them into all truth**.

John 16:12-13

*"I [Jesus] have much more to say to you [11 disciples...Judas left...eventually a twelfth apostles was added in Acts 1], more than you can now bear. But **when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you [the apostles] into all the truth.**"*

One of these truths was that the law of Moses separating Gentiles and Jews had been abolished, destroyed in the death of Jesus; thus, enabling Jews and Gentiles to be in the same family of grace.

This is a major part of the gospel of grace which was not revealed to the apostles during the earthly ministry of Jesus but was later revealed to them by the Spirit.

The Spirit taught (revealed to) the apostles the gospel of grace around AD 40 (Ephesians 3:5).

One of these revelations of truth by the Spirit is recorded in **Acts 10** when Peter is given the revelation to go with Gentiles to a Gentile's house (Cornelius) and to eat the food of Gentiles (around AD 40).

Before this revelation, the Apostles of Jesus continued to keep their distance from Gentiles, which was opposite of the gospel of grace that we read about in Ephesians. **Eventually, the Spirit revealed to them** (remember the Spirit would guide them into all truth – John 16:12-13) the truth of the gospel of grace – Jew and Gentile in one family of grace apart from the law of Moses (Ephesians 2:11-22). It is highly probably that Jesus' other apostles were given similar visions by the Spirit, though they are not recorded in Acts.

From the time Paul received the message of grace from Jesus (AD 36) and the Spirit revealed the message of grace to the Apostles of Jesus (AD 40 – Peter's vision to go to a Gentile's home and eat Gentiles' food), the gospel of grace was discussed and debated.

Finally, after about 14 years of discussions and debates, James (the brother of Jesus), believing Pharisees, Peter, John, Paul, and Barnabas came together to discuss the gospel of grace (AD 49/50). At this meeting, they made a decision on the gospel of grace – the gospel that Jesus first revealed to Paul (AD 36) then the Spirit later revealed to the Apostles (AD 40). This agreement is recorded in Acts 15:9-11.

Acts 15:9-11 (AD 49/50 – about 16 years after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus)

*He [God] did not discriminate between us [Jews] and them [Gentiles], for he purified their [Gentiles] hearts by faith [see Acts 26:18 – sanctified/purified by faith, see also Hebrews 1:1-3]. Now then, why do you [Pharisees who became believers in Jesus but told the Gentiles that for them to be saved they must not only believe that Jesus was the Christ, but they must also submit to the law of Moses] try to test God [telling the Gentiles that righteousness, which is needed for salvation, is through faith in Jesus plus submission to the law of Moses...this is not God's message of grace] by putting on the necks of Gentiles a yoke [the requirements of the law of Moses for salvation] that neither we [early first century Jews] nor our ancestors [Jews of all past generations] have been able to bear [follow, obey]? No! [obedience to the law is not God's way of salvation...law plus grace is not God's way of salvation...only grace is God's way of salvation, his way to be righteous]. We [the apostles of Jesus] believe it is through **the GRACE of our Lord Jesus that we [Jews] are saved, just as they [Gentiles] are.***

An interesting fact that Paul writes about in Galatians 2:11-21 (written after this meeting and decision, written about AD 50-51) is that James sends specific men to Syrian Antioch to confront Peter because Peter was eating with the Gentile believers. Because Peter feared the men James sent, Peter stopped eating with the Gentiles, as did Barnabas and other Jewish believers – this is in direct opposition to the gospel of grace. Take note that this was after Peter's revelation in Acts 10 (AD 40) and after the decision was made in Jerusalem (AD 49-50) that Jews nor Gentiles had to follow the law for righteousness and salvation.

Paul confronted Peter and the others (this would include Barnabas) because they were not acting in accordance with the truth of the gospel – the decision reached in Jerusalem about salvation by grace through faith in Jesus (see Galatians 2:11-21; Acts 15:6-11).

The event in Galatians 2:11-21 reveals the difficult time most Jewish believers had with leaving behind the law of Moses and moving forward in the grace of Jesus. **Sadly, this same difficulty continues today.**

Those in the period Paul lived had a very difficult time with what Paul taught about the gospel of grace. This explains why Paul wrote about the revelation of grace given to him by Jesus, stating that Jesus directly revealed the message to him (see Ephesians 3:1-6).

If it were not for Paul standing boldly for the gospel of grace and proclaiming boldly the gospel of grace, the gospel of grace would have been lost in the first century. However, Jesus revealed the message to Paul who communicated the message in his time and preserved the message through his writings.

In **Galatians 1:10-12**, we see Paul's fearlessness in communicating the gospel of grace in an unbelieving culture that rejected and persecuted him for it.

Galatians 1:10-12

*Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings [as Peter and Barnabas was trying to with the men sent from James – Galatians 2:11-21 - ...Paul is saying that if he were trying to please men such as James, who mixed the old and new testaments], or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people [as he did under his law days before coming to grace and faith in Jesus...If I were trying to please James, Peter, and the others who were mixing the old and new testaments], I would not be **a servant of Christ** [compare servant of Christ with Jesus use of the word servant to Paul in Acts 26:15-18]. I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin [grace does not come from the mind of humans]. I did not receive it [the gospel of grace] from any man, nor was I taught it [James did not teach it to Paul, Peter did not teach it to Paul; John, nor anyone else taught the gospel of grace to Paul]; rather, I received it [the gospel of grace] by revelation from Jesus Christ.*

After the revelation of the gospel of grace (which is the stone that becomes the mountain of grace throughout the nations – Daniel 2), **Jesus sent Paul to proclaim the gospel of grace in all nations – thus, the mountain of grace grew as the gospel of grace was proclaimed.**

Remember, we are examining how the gospel of grace grew as a mountain of grace, filling the whole earth with the truth of God's grace as seen in **Colossians 1:5-8** and **2 Corinthians 4:15** (see teaching #25).

In **this** study, we learned that Jesus **REVEALED** to Paul the message of grace.

Our **next** study, we will learn that Jesus **SENT** Paul into all nations, causing the mountain of grace to grow.

Some may ask...*what does this have to do with the redemption of Jerusalem/Israel that Anna, Jesus, and the two men on the road to Emmaus spoke about?*

As we continue in our study on the Redemption of Jerusalem, this will become clearer.

Thanks for being a part of this Bible Study!

All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.

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