

A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke
Teaching #27: Jerusalem's Redemption: Part Four
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 – Luke 2:38**
- **Second Mention – By Jesus – Luke 21:28**
- **Third Mention – By The Two Men On The Road To Emmaus – Luke 24:21**

We have also examined the background information necessary to understand the redemption of Jerusalem.

The background information includes:

- 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).

When Jesus was born the nation of Israel was experiencing the curse of the law because Rome was ruling Israel at the time of Jesus birth (Luke 2:1-2)

Luke 2:1-2

*In those days **Caesar Augustus** issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire **Roman world**. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)*

We have examined how Rome became the world power that ruled Israel during the life of Jesus.

The Rome is depicted in the statue of Daniel 2.

This leads us to the second piece of background information we have been examining for us to understand the redemption of Israel spoken about by Anna, Jesus, and the two men on the road to Emmaus.

- The **PROPHECY** concerning old testament Israel by Daniel in Daniel 2 and Daniel 9:24-26 (the 70 weeks of Daniel).

The prophecy of Daniel 2 and explains how Israel came under the dominion of Rome. Rome was the fourth kingdom in the prophetic statue.

Let's review these 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).

There was a Fifth Kingdom in the prophecy of the statue.

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**.

We have seen that this **STONE** is Jesus that becomes a **MOUNTAIN** and fills the whole earth with grace.

Colossians 1:5-8 and **2 Corinthians 4:15** (see teachings #24, #25, and #26).

We began examining how the gospel message of God's grace began to fill the who earth.

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.

We examined this revelation of grace by Jesus to Paul in our previous study (Luke #25).

Now let's look at how Jesus sent Paul into all nations, causing the mountain of grace to grow and fill the earth.

2. Jesus **SENT** Paul into the nations to proclaim the message of God's grace.

Acts 26:17-18

*I [Jesus] will rescue you [Paul] from your own people and from the Gentiles. **I am sending you to them** to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

Jesus sent Paul into the nations, which consisted of both Jews and Gentiles, to proclaim the gospel of God's grace – which is everything God has done for us through Jesus (his hands not ours, his works no ours, his finished work not our works) to forgive our sins, give us righteousness, and to reconcile himself to us in a relationship where we know him as our loving Father. We receive God's grace through faith in Jesus.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we receive God's forgiveness and righteousness and are reconciled to him.

This is the message Paul took into the nations.

The nations were under the power of Satan and the darkness of his kingdom (Luke 4:6-7). They had no understanding of the love of God...the kindness of God...the goodness of God...the grace of God...the plan of God...the covenants of God, or the promises of God (Ephesians 2:11-12).

These nations began in Genesis 10-11, and **they were under the dark, powerful regime of Satan**. Yet, God's heart has always been to bless the nations – see Genesis 12:1-3. He would bless the nations through his grace that came through Jesus – see Romans 4 and Galatians 3.

Jesus appointed Paul to take God's grace to the nations (Romans 1:5, 16:25-27 – the obedience of the nations is **faith in Jesus** for salvation].

Jesus sent Paul on a rescue mission to rescue both Jews and Gentiles *to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and from **the power [exousia] of Satan to God**, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

Let's read about this in **Acts 26:17-18**.

Acts:26-17-18

*I will rescue you from your own people [Jews] and from the Gentiles. I am sending you to them [Jews and Gentiles] to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light [Acts 13:47; 26:23], and from **the power [exousia] of Satan to God**, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.*

Four Goals of the Rescue Mission

Goal #1: Turn them from darkness to light

Darkness is not knowing the truth about God...about Jesus...about life...about grace.

Both the Jews and Gentiles were in the dark – see John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12; 12:35; 12:46

Light is knowing the truth about God...about Jesus...about life...about grace. (John 1:4-9; 8:12; 9:5; 12:46; Acts 13:47; 26:23)

Goal #2: Turn them from the power (dominion) of Satan to God

Both the Jews and Gentiles were under the power of Satan. Remember, Jesus told the Pharisees you are of your father the devil – **John 8:44**. The Gentiles, all the nations in Genesis 10-11, were under the power of Satan.

The power of Satan is his **lies** about God, Jesus, and life.

The power of God is his truth about himself, Jesus, life, and grace.

The power of God is the gospel of grace (see Romans 1:16-17) that sets people free from Satan's power. Through the gospel (all that God freely, fully, and forever did for us through the death of Jesus, through his resurrection, and through his ascension to forgive our sins, make us righteous, make us alive spiritually, and seat us with him in heaven -Ephesians 1-2:9), we are freed from the power of Satan and his dominion – see Colossians 1:13-14.

We receive God's grace by faith.

Goal #3: Receive the forgiveness of sins by faith

The rescue mission Jesus sent Paul on included the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins that is received by faith (see also Acts 26:18; 13:38-39).

Forgiveness not something we seek to get from God each day. Rather, forgiveness is offered to us by God, based on the death of Jesus for all of our sins, and is simply received by faith the day we believed in Jesus for salvation.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we are removed from Satan's kingdom (power, dominion) of darkness, his kingdom of shame, guilt, and condemnation, and we are placed into God's Kingdom of Grace where we experience the power of his forgiveness and righteousness.

Goal #4: A place among those who are sanctified by faith

Through faith in Jesus, we not only receive and experience the forgiveness of sins, but we are also sanctified – purified from all sins, cleansed from all sins through the blood of Jesus – see Hebrews 13:12; 10:10 and 10:14 – in Hebrews 10:14, the word *being* is not in the Greek manuscripts...it was improperly inserted by the translators. The NAS translation accurately translates the Greek in Hebrews 10:14 by **not** inserting the word *being*. The NKJV puts *being* in italics because it is not in the Greek manuscripts.

Understanding that we have been made holy (cleansed and purified from all sins – see Hebrews 1:1-3) sets us free from shame. Understanding we have been forgiven of all sins sets us free from guilt. The word ***saint*** used to describe the identity of those who have placed their faith in Jesus. *Saint*, after the death of Jesus, is used over **60** times to refer to believers and about **40** times in Paul's letters to describe the cleansed and forgiven identity of believers. Never does John in Revelation (**13** times in Revelation) or Paul in his letters identify believers as sinners saved by grace. We were sinners. We were saved by grace. We are now ***saints*** – cleansed and forgiven sons and daughters of God.

The place we are now located is with Christ in heaven (Ephesians 2:1-9).

- We have been raised with Jesus.
- We are seated with Jesus.

Jesus sent Paul on a rescue mission with these four goals.

We see these goals accomplished in Colossians 1:12-14.

The Goals Accomplished

Colossians 1:12-14

...giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you [through the work of Jesus] to share in the inheritance [the spiritual riches of Jesus – forgiveness, righteousness, eternal life, raised with Christ, seated with Christ] of his holy people [saints – the new identity of those who trusted in Jesus, receiving purification from sins and forgiveness of sins through faith in Jesus] in the **kingdom of light** [believers are no longer in the kingdom of darkness – Satan’s kingdom]. For he has RESCUED us from the dominion **[exousia]** of darkness [the power of Satan - see Acts 26:15-18] and **brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves** [the STONE and GROWING MOUNTAIN Of GRACE filling the earth], in whom we have redemption [the full payment for our sins by Jesus on the cross see Ephesians 1:7], the forgiveness of sins [the full and eternal forgiveness of sins].

In Colossians 1:12-14, we see how Paul carried out the mission Jesus sent Paul on. Even though Paul never personally visited Colossae, he influenced Epaphras. Epaphras took the message to the people of Colossae. I explain this in my book – [Toxic Discipleship](#).

In Acts 26:15-18 and Colossians 1:12-14, the Greek word **exousia** is used for the word power and dominion to refer to Satan’s kingdom of darkness. Satan used the word **exousia** when he took Jesus to the top of the mountain to tempt him with the kingdoms of the world.

Luke 4:6-7

*The devil led him up to a high place [mountain - oros] and showed him in an instant **all the kingdoms of the world** [these kingdoms go back to Genesis 10-11, then to Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, Rome]. **6** And he said to him, “I will give you all their **authority [exousia - power]** and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be yours.”*

Satan was offering Jesus the power of the kingdoms of the world. Yet Jesus knew his mission: **to set people from Satan’s powerful kingdom of darkness.**

Jesus was on a rescue mission to free people from Satan’s power. After Jesus defeated Satan at the cross and through his resurrection, Jesus sent Paul on a mission to rescue people from Satan’s kingdom, dominion, and power of darkness by proclaiming the gospel of grace. The power of the gospel (righteousness by faith apart from the law or works – Romans 1:16-17) is the power that frees people from the power of Satan.

We see that Jesus’ spiritual kingdom, contrasted with Satan’s physical kingdoms, is a spiritual kingdom of grace that gives light, life, and forgiveness.

In this Kingdom of Grace, we **experience** and **enjoy** all that God has done for us in Jesus, which releases us from the power of Satan.

God’s kingdom is powerful.

Ephesians 3:20

*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, **according to his power** (the context of God’s power is the gospel of grace, and the love of Christ for us and in us) **that is at work within us...***

Let’s examine this powerful kingdom of grace a little more closely in Ephesians.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Consequently, you [Gentiles – believers in Jesus from nations other than Israel] *are no longer foreigners and strangers* [the Gentiles as one time were living in spiritual darkness because they were not aware of the promises God made to Israel to bless them – Genesis 12:1-2; Galatians 3 and Romans 4], *but fellow citizens* [citizens with Jewish believers in the spiritual temple of grace] *with God’s people* [literal translation is the saints – those who have been made holy through the blood of Jesus] *and also members of his household* [the spiritual temple of grace], *built* [by God, not by human hands] *on the foundation of the apostles* [they carried the message of the new testament to people in all nations – see the book of Acts] *and prophets* [the Jewish prophets of the Jewish Scriptures who foretold the coming of the Christ and the new testament he would establish], *with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone* [Jesus is the cornerstone – the STONE of Daniel 2:34 – of the spiritual temple of grace – bringing Jews and Gentiles together as one “grace building,” one “grace temple.”]. *In him the whole building* [the spiritual temple of grace consisting of believing Jews and Gentiles] *is joined together and rises* [as a MOUNTAIN] *to become a holy temple in the Lord*. *And in him you* [believing Jews and Gentiles] *too are being built* [not by human hands, but built by God through the finished work of Jesus] *together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit*.

When people place their faith in Jesus, they are added to the spiritual temple of grace. With each addition, the spiritual temple grows and rises as a mountain, the ever growing spiritual kingdom of God, (not built by human hands) that continues to fill the earth. This is what Daniel foretold in Daniel 2:34-45.

Let’s close this study with an examination of Ephesians 2:4-9 so that we can better understand why the kingdom built by God is a spiritual kingdom of grace.

Ephesians 2:4-9

But because of his great love for us [God loves us deeply and unconditionally!], *God, who is rich in mercy* [God is full of unmerited kindness and gives it to us abundantly], *made us alive with Christ* [we are spiritually made alive through the physical resurrection of Jesus when we placed our faith in Jesus] *even when we were dead in transgressions* [when we were spiritually disconnected from God because of sin, but not disconnected from his love for us and kindness to us, we were made alive with Jesus when we placed our faith in Jesus]—*it is by GRACE* (grace is the great love of God for us, the unconditional love of God and his unmerited kindness to us through the work of Christ) *you have been saved* [we have been saved from spiritual death and judgment for our sins because Jesus took the judgment for our sins when he died on the cross; we have been saved to eternal life, a relationship with God; we have been fully forgiven and made blameless and holy – cleansed from all sins and forgiven of all sins, innocent before God, and spiritually connected to God, placed in the family of God]. *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus* [we have been spiritually resurrected and seated with Christ], *in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his GRACE* [all that God has lovingly and kindly done for us in Christ, *expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus* [through the death of Jesus that forgave all our sins, making us holy and blameless, and through the resurrection of Jesus, making us alive, and through the ascension of Jesus where we have been seated with him]. *For it is by GRACE* [the loving and kind work of God for us through Jesus] *you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast*.

The phrases *not from yourselves* and *not by works* reminds us of *not built by human hands*. This lets us know that we do not save ourselves through our own efforts. What a relief!

Rather, we are saved by grace – the work/effort of Jesus – which is received through faith.

Jesus did the work (grace) and offers us salvation as a gift.

Through faith in Jesus, we receive the gift of salvation.

Therefore, we boast in the work of Jesus that saves us.

When we place our faith in Jesus, we become living, spiritual, precious stones of grace that are individually placed into the spiritual temple of grace that rises to become a spiritual kingdom of grace.

This is the **EVER GROWING MOUNTAIN OF GRACE** (that started from the Stone-Jesus) that fills the earth (bringing the loving and kind presence of God into all nations) as seen in Daniel 2:34-45.

This EVER GROWING GRACE MOUNTAIN – This EVER GROWING GRACE KINGDOM started with Jesus, **THE STONE**, who became the **CORNERSTONE** of the spiritual temple of grace.

The SPIRITUAL WALLS of the SPIRITUAL TEMPLE are the LIVING STONES OF GRACE (those who have been made alive with Christ and who God now lives by his Spirit) who were placed in the wall when they placed their faith in Jesus.

As more and more people place their faith in Jesus (when they hear about the grace of God – his unconditional love for us and unmerited kindness to us through Jesus), the spiritual temple of GOD'S GRACE GROWS, the spiritual mountain of GOD'S GRACE GROWS – see Colossians 1:5-8.

If you have placed your faith in Jesus, you are a living, forgiven, holy, blameless, precious stone in the ever-growing spiritual temple and kingdom of God's grace!

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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