

**A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke**  
**Teaching #30: Jerusalem's Redemption: Part Seven**  
**Luke 2:38; 21:28; 24:21**

In our previous studies, we have been examining the redemption of Jerusalem based on the three mentions of redemption in the book of Luke.

**The Three Mentions of Redemption**

- **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 looked at these three mentions in Parts 1-3.

To understand the redemption of Israel, **we have been examining in Daniel 2:**

- The Statue with its four earthly kingdoms
- The Stone (Jesus) cut of the Mountain (Israel) that became a fifth kingdom – The Kingdom of God/Heaven, the spiritual kingdom of grace – (Ephesians 2:11-21)
- The Latter Days of Corrupt Old Covenant Israel, which would be a perverse generation (Daniel 2:28; Deuteronomy 31:9; 32:5; Acts 2:40)
- The Days of the Kings in Daniel 2:44-45, Psalm 2:1-2, and Acts 4:23-27 when the leaders of Rome mixed with the leaders of corrupt Israel and banded together to persecute and crucify Jesus, to persecute his apostles (ultimately killing one of his apostles – James, see Acts 12), to persecute and kill Stephen, and to persecute and kill believers in Jesus (Acts 4-7).

In our previous studies (Luke #28 and #29), we also examined the words of Jesus

- **Placing** the time of the Fourth and Fifth kingdoms in his lifetime.
- **Foretelling** the persecution that would come, which is seen in the Book of Acts.

This is where we will pick up.

Following the persecution and stoning to death of Stephen, a great persecution broke out against believers Jesus in Jerusalem and other cities, just as Jesus foretold.

**Acts 8:1-3**

*And Saul was there, giving approval to Stephen's death. On that day **A GREAT PERSECUTION BROKE OUT against the church in Jerusalem**, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria. God-fearing men buried Stephen and mourned deeply over him. **But Saul began to destroy the***

**church. Going from house to house, he dragged off men and women and put them in prison.** (this is the persecution Jesus said would come – see Luke teaching #29)

Saul/Paul pursued believers as far as Damascus in Syria.

Note: Saul was Paul’s Jewish name, and Paul was his Gentile name.

#### **Acts 9:1-6**

Meanwhile, **Saul** [was a part of the kingdom mixed with iron and clay; the corrupt leadership of Israel in the latter days of old testament Israel – See Acts 26:9-11] **was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples.** He went to the high priest [the clay of kingdom mixed with iron and clay; the corrupt leadership of the perverse generation Moses prophesied about in Deuteronomy 32:5 and Peter spoke about in Acts 2:40] and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way [the Way was what early believers were called based upon John 14:6; see Acts 22:4], whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem [Jesus foretold this would happen – see Luke teaching #29]. As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, **Saul, why do you PERSECUTE me?**” “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting [persecuting the believers in Jesus was equal to persecuting Jesus],” he replied. “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

#### **Four Observations About Saul/Paul**

**Observation #1:** God moved Paul from the **Clay** (Daniel 2 – the fourth kingdom of iron mixed with clay) and made him a member of the **Way** (see Acts 22:4; Galatians 1:13).

To read about Paul’s former life in the clay of the old covenant corrupt leadership of Israel, read Acts 8-9, 21-26, Galatians 1, and 1 Timothy 1:12-13.

During the days when Paul was a part of the corrupt leadership of Israel, he dragged believers out of their homes and synagogues. He beat them. He imprisoned them. He put them in chains. And he voted to have some of them killed. **These are the martyrs of Revelation whose prayers went up to God as they cried out from under the altar for vindication (Revelation 6:9-11).** The altar was symbolic of the corrupt, old covenant priests who were participating in the killing of believers. Remember, it was the high priest who gave Paul the official papers to arrest those in the Jewish synagogues. The vindication was against “Mystery Babylon.” Mystery Babylon was corrupt Jerusalem in the first century (Revelation **11:8**; 14:8; 16:19; 17:18; 18:10; 18:16-21) whose corrupt leadership (priests, teachers of the law, scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and other leaders of the people) was putting to death believers in Jesus.

Jesus prophesied they would do this (read all of Matthew 23; see also Matthew 23:33-37; Matthew 10:17-23; John 15:18-16:4).

Paul was a part of this corrupt group at one time, securing letters from the high priests granting him permission to persecute Jewish believers in Jesus. But God, through his grace, saved Paul and sent him on a mission to tell others about the good news of grace (Acts 26:15-18; 20:23-24; 2 Corinthians 3; 4:15; 5:19-21; 2 Timothy 1:8-12).

**Observation #2:** God brought Paul out of the **Fourth Kingdom** and made him a builder of the **Fifth Kingdom** – the spiritual kingdom of grace, the stone grows into a huge mountain and fills the earth with grace (see Luke teachings #26 and #27).

**Observation #3:** God took Paul, one of the **passionate leaders** of the persecution, and turned him into the **passionate communicator** of the gospel of God's grace (Paul).

Paul received the gospel (message) of God's grace directly from the ascended Jesus.

**Acts 20:24 (Christian Standard Bible)**

*But I consider my life of no value to myself; my purpose is to finish my course and **THE MINISTRY I RECEIVED FROM THE LORD JESUS, TO TESTIFY TO THE GOSPEL 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.***

What is the gospel of God's grace that Paul by direct revelation from the ascended Jesus?

**Acts 26:15-18**

*Then I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' " 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' the Lord replied. 'Now get up and stand on your feet. I have appeared to you to appoint you as a servant and as a witness of what you have seen and will see of me. I will rescue you 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.**'*

The gospel of God's grace that was given to Paul by revelation from the ascended Jesus was a message based upon **grace** and **faith**.

**Grace** is everything God has done for everyone, because he loves us, through the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus to forgive our sins and provided the righteousness needed for eternal life.

**Faith** receives what God has done for us in Jesus.

When a people place their faith in Jesus, they are justified, meaning:

- They have been declared **not guilty (forgiven)** before God for their sins, since Jesus took their guilt on the cross
- They have been declared **innocent (righteous)** before God because Jesus took their unrighteousness at the cross and now gives them his righteousness as a gift.

Paul explained the gospel of grace more fully in Romans and Galatians.

**Romans 3:19-24 (NET Bible)**

Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law [Jews had the Law written on stone, Jesus had the law written on their hearts see Romans 2], so that every mouth may be silenced [Jew and Gentile – the law convicts all of sins and sentences all to death] and the whole world [Jews and Gentiles] may be held accountable to God [for their sins and guilt]. For no one [Jew or Gentile] is declared righteous before him by the works of the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God (which is attested by the law and the prophets) has been disclosed – namely, the **righteousness of God through the faithfulness of Jesus Christ for all who believe** [It's not people's faithfulness to the law, or any law-based, works-based system, that makes them righteous; rather, through the faithfulness of Jesus in going to the cross and taking upon himself our sinfulness, we receive righteousness as a gift of grace when we believe]. For there is no distinction [between Jews and Gentiles, because the law convicts them all of sins and condemns them all to death], for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But they are **justified** freely [no works, no earning righteousness, no meriting righteousness, it can't be done because we are all sinful apart from Jesus] by his grace [the finished work of Christ] through the redemption [the full and final payment for our sins by Jesus on the cross] that is in Christ Jesus.

We are looking at four observations about Paul.

**Observation #4:** Paul became the **main communicators of the gospel of grace** [righteousness by grace through faith in Jesus] that would **multiply the spiritual kingdom of grace** (the fifth kingdom in Daniel 2) all over the world

Remember, we are examining **the Fourth Kingdom of iron mixed with clay**, and we are examining **the days of the kings of the earth (Daniel)**. It was during time of the iron mixed with clay and the days of the kings, that the Stone cut (not by human hands) out of the mountain would become a great mountain that would fill the earth, and is still filling the earth today!

The stone is Jesus.

The mountain is the gospel of grace and those who place their faith in Jesus for righteousness.

The mountain of grace grows as more and more people trust in Jesus.

Those who trust in Jesus are declared righteous and form the spiritual kingdom of grace, the fifth kingdom – the spiritual kingdom of grace not built by hands, but built by the work of Jesus on the cross and his resurrection.

This is Paul message: Jesus is the stone. Righteousness is by faith in Jesus.

Let's look at this.

#### **Romans 9:30-31**

What then will we say? That the Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have obtained it, **a righteousness that is by faith** [faith in Jesus – he took our sinfulness and offers us righteousness as a gift]; but Israel, who pursued **a law of righteousness**, has not attained it. Why not? Because their pursuit [of righteousness] was not by faith, but as if it were by works [works of the law]. **They stumbled over the stumbling STONE** [Paul is referring to the Stone of Daniel 2. This stone is Jesus], as it is written [in Isaiah 8:14; 28:16]:

“See, I lay in Zion a **stone of stumbling** and a rock of offense [they were offended that righteousness can't be gained through the law but is received by grace through faith]; and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame.” (Isaiah 8:14; 28:16)

Paul quoted **the same verses from Isaiah 8:14 that Jesus did** (see Matthew 21:44-45; Luke 10:17-20) when referring to Israel tripping over the Stone...Peter also quoted this verse in 1 Peter 2).

Jesus, Paul, and Peter were all speaking to or about the same group of people – Jewish people who rejected Jesus as the Christ and the righteousness he offered. This righteousness was and still is received simply through belief (Just as Abraham believed and righteousness was accredited to him – Genesis 16:5).

#### **Romans 10:1-4**

*Brothers and sisters, my heart's desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved. For I can testify about them that they are zealous for God, but their zeal is not based on knowledge. **Since they did not know the righteousness of God** [Romans 3:21-24 – righteousness by faith in Jesus] and sought to establish their own [righteousness by works of the law], they did not submit to God's righteousness [righteousness by faith]. Christ is the culmination of the law [fulfillment of the law, the law reveals people's sinfulness and points them to Jesus for righteousness] so that there may be **righteousness for everyone who believes.***

Paul message of grace, righteousness by grace through faith in Jesus apart from the law was the reason Paul was persecuted.

### **The Persecution Paul Endured**

Paul was persecuted by the clay (the corrupt leadership of Israel) of the Fourth Kingdom of iron and clay for **TWO REASONS**:

**Reason #1**: Proclaiming Jesus as the Christ

**Reason #2**: Proclaiming that righteousness is by faith apart from the works of the law.

With this important background information, let's examine the persecution Paul endured from the members of the clay. This is the same group of people who persecuted Jesus, the apostles, Stephen, and believers – now they are after Paul.

Remember, this persecution is:

- During the time of the kingdom of iron mixed with clay (Daniel 2 which occurred from AD 1-70)
- During the days of the kings prophesied about in Daniel 2:44-45; Psalm 2:1-2; and revealed in Acts 4:23-27.
- During the latter days of old testament Israel and the corrupt, perverse leadership of Israel as prophesied about by Moses in Deuteronomy 31:29 and 32:5 (see also Acts 2:40) and by Daniel in Daniel 2:28.

We are going to examine:

- The persecution Paul endured in the cities of Rome.
- The persecution Paul wrote about in his letters to churches.

## THE PERSECUTION PAUL ENDURED IN THE CITIES

### Persecution In Damascus and Jerusalem

#### **Acts 9:19-30**

*Saul spent several days with the disciples in Damascus. At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah.*

***After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him**, but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall [see 2 Corinthians 11:32-33].*

*When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews [**Jews who spoke the Greek language and practiced the Greek culture**], but they **tried to kill him**. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.*

### Persecution In Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, and Derbe (the cities the region of Galatia)

#### **Acts 13:14-16**

*From Perga they went on to **Pisidian Antioch**. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the leaders of the synagogue sent word to them, saying, “Brothers, if you have a word of exhortation for the people, please speak.” Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: “Fellow Israelites and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!*

Paul explained from the Jewish Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ prophesied about in the Jewish Scriptures.

He then stated...

#### **Acts 13:38-39 (Berean Standard Bible – BSB)**

*Therefore let it be known to you, brothers, that through **Jesus the forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you**.*

Through Him everyone who believes is justified from everything you could not be justified from by the law of Moses.

### Three Observations From Paul's Presentation Of The Gospel Of Grace

**Observation #1:** Paul proclaimed the same message Jesus gave him to proclaim: **forgiveness is received by faith** (Acts 20:24; Acts 26:18).

- God's forgiveness is based upon the new testament of grace where Jesus shed his blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:26-28; Luke 22:20; Ephesians 1:6-8; Colossians 1:13-14; Hebrews 10:17-18).

- Forgiveness is God declaring people not guilty of sins when they place their faith in Jesus.

**Observation #2:** Paul taught that one is **justified by faith** apart from the law of Moses.

- Justified is God declaring people righteous or innocent of all sins for all time when they place their faith in Jesus.

- This righteous declaration is based upon Jesus taking our unrighteousness upon himself at the cross and giving us his righteousness as a gift of grace the moment we believe (Romans 24:21-25; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

**Observation #3:** Following the law of Moses (or any moral or religious standard) cannot forgive sins or result in righteousness (innocent of sin).

- Forgiveness and righteousness are received only by faith in Jesus and are not achieved by following the law of Moses or by fulfilling any standard or requirement.

After Paul presented the gospel of grace in the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch, they began to leave the synagogue. As they were leaving, they were persecuted.

#### **Acts 13:42-51 (BSB)**

*As Paul and Barnabas were leaving the synagogue, the people urged them to continue this message on the next Sabbath. After the synagogue was dismissed, many of the Jews and devout converts to Judaism followed Paul and Barnabas, who spoke to them and urged them to **continue in the grace of God** [continuing the grace of God is living in the truth that forgiveness and righteousness is received by faith and not achieved by following the law or fulfilling any standard or requirement]. On the following Sabbath, nearly the whole city gathered to hear the word of the Lord [the word of the Lord is the truth that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ. As declared by the Jewish Scriptures and that forgiveness and righteousness is received by faith in Jesus not following the law]. **But when the Jews saw the crowds, they were filled with jealousy, and they blasphemously contradicted what Paul was saying. The Jews, however, incited the religious women of prominence and the leading men of the city. They stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas and drove them out of their district.** So they shook the dust off their feet in protest against them and went to Iconium.*

#### **Acts 14:1-7 (BSB)**

At **Iconium**, Paul and Barnabas went as usual into the Jewish synagogue, where they spoke so well that a great number of Jews and Greeks believed [Paul presented the same gospel message in Iconium as he did in Pisidian Antioch]. **But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds against the brothers.** So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who affirmed **the message of His grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders.** The people of the city were divided. Some sided with the Jews [Jesus is not the Christ/Messiah, and forgiveness and righteousness comes by following the law of Moses], and others with the apostles [Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, and forgiveness and righteousness are received through faith in Jesus]. **But when the Gentiles and Jews, together with their rulers, set out to mistreat and stone them,** they [Paul, Silas, and Timothy] found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of **Lystra** and **Derbe** and to the surrounding region, where they continued to preach the gospel [God's gospel of grace – the message that forgiveness and righteousness is received through faith in Jesus and not achieved by following the law].

#### **Acts 14:19-21 (BSB)**

Then some Jews arrived from Antioch [Pisidian Antioch of Acts 13] and Iconium and won over the crowds. **They stoned Paul and dragged him outside the city, presuming he was dead.** But after the disciples had gathered around him, he got up and went back into the city. And the next day he left with Barnabas for Derbe. They preached the gospel [the gospel of God's grace that Jesus gave Paul to proclaim, which is that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ and that forgiveness and righteousness is received through faith in Jesus and not achieved by following the law of Moses – this is the gospel message Paul taught in Acts 13 when at Pisidian Antioch] to that city and made many disciples.

#### **Persecution In Philippi**

##### **Summary of Acts 16**

The persecution Paul and Silas endured in Philippi was at the hands of the Romans. There was no synagogue there; therefore, Paul and did not have the opportunity to speak in a synagogue in Philippi. However, Paul and Silas met Lydia and her household by the riverside. Lydia and her household became believers in Jesus. Eventually, **Paul and Silas were arrested, stripped and beaten with rods, imprisoned, then shackled by the Romans.**

Through a miracle of God, the jailer and his household became believers in Jesus.

Paul then left Philippi and traveled to Thessalonica where he experienced persecution from some of the Jewish unbelievers who were members of the synagogue.

#### **Persecution In Thessalonica**

##### **Acts 17:1-8**

When Paul and his companions had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to **Thessalonica**, where there was a Jewish synagogue. As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah," he said. Some of the Jews were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a large number of God-fearing Greeks and quite a few prominent women.



**But other Jews were jealous; so they rounded up some bad characters from the marketplace, formed a mob and started a riot in the city.** They rushed to Jason's house in search of Paul and Silas in order to bring them out to the crowd. But when they did not find them, **they dragged Jason and some other believers before the city officials,** shouting: "These men who have caused trouble all over the world have now come here, and Jason has welcomed them into his house. They are all defying Caesar's decrees, saying that there is another king, one called Jesus." When they heard this, the crowd and the city officials were thrown into turmoil. Then they made Jason and the others post bond and let them go.

### **Persecution In Berea**

#### **Acts 17:9-15**

As soon as it was night, the believers sent Paul and Silas away to **Berea**. On arriving there, they went to the Jewish synagogue. Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message **[about Jesus being the Christ/Messiah and that righteousness is by grace through faith apart from the law]** with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures **[the prophecies in the Jewish Scriptures concerning the Messiah/Christ such as Isaiah 53]** every day to see if what Paul said was true. As a result, many of them believed **[and therefore received forgiveness and righteousness]**, as did also a number of prominent Greek women and many Greek men.

But **when the Jews in Thessalonica learned that Paul was preaching the word of God [Jesus is the Christ, and forgiveness and righteousness is received by faith in Jesus] at Berea, some of them went there too, agitating the crowds and stirring them up.** The believers immediately sent Paul to the coast, but Silas and Timothy stayed at Berea. Those who escorted Paul brought him to Athens and then left with instructions for Silas and Timothy to join him as soon as possible.

### **Persecution In Corinth**

#### **Acts 18:12-13**

While Gallio was proconsul **[Governor]** of Achaia **[Greece]**, **the Jews of Corinth [capital city of Achaia] made a united attack on Paul** and brought him to the place of judgment. "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

Paul was **not** telling people to worship in ways contrary to the law.

This was a false accusation...the same accusation made against Stephen in Acts 6-7.

Paul taught that the law educated people about their sins (Romans 7:7-24) and pointed them to faith in Jesus (the promised Messiah of the Jewish Scriptures) for forgiveness and righteousness (see Romans and Galatians).

Paul taught that Jesus was the fulfillment of the law – the law and the prophets (the Jewish Scriptures pointed to him as the lamb of God who died for our sins to justify (result in forgiveness and righteousness) for those who believed (Isaiah 53).

The law and the prophets (the Jewish Scriptures) declared that the Messiah/Christ would rise from the dead.

Refer back to Paul's message in Pisidian Antioch (Acts 13).

## Persecution In Jerusalem

### **Acts 20:27-31**

...some Jews from the province of Asia [where Ephesus was located and where Paul had previously been] saw Paul at the temple [in Jerusalem]. **They stirred up the whole crowd and seized him**, shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help us! This is the man who teaches everyone everywhere against our people and our law and this place. And besides, he has brought Greeks into the temple and defiled this holy place." (They had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian in the city with Paul and assumed that Paul had brought him into the temple.)

**The whole city was aroused, and the people came running from all directions. Seizing Paul, they dragged him from the temple, and immediately the gates were shut. While they were trying to kill him**, news reached the commander of the Roman troops that the whole city of Jerusalem was in an uproar.

In **Acts 23:1-9**, Paul is brought before the **Sanhedrin** – the same ruling assembly of Israel that Paul was once a part of when Peter, John, and Stephen were brought before the Sanhedrin.

### **Acts 23:1**

Paul looked straight at the **Sanhedrin**...the commander [of the Roman Army] was afraid **Paul would be torn to pieces by them**...

### **Acts 23:12-15**

The next morning some **Jews formed a conspiracy and bound themselves with an oath not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul**. More than forty men were involved in this plot. They went to the chief priests and the elders and said, "We have taken a solemn oath not to eat anything until we have killed Paul. Now then, you and the Sanhedrin petition the commander to bring him before you on the pretext of wanting more accurate information about his case. We are ready to kill him before he gets here."

We are examining the persecution Paul endured from the corrupt, perverse leaders of Israel during the latter days of old testament Israel - AD 1-70. (Deuteronomy 31:29; 32:5; Daniel 2:28).

The corrupt days of old testament Israel were during the days of the kings of the fourth kingdom of iron mixed with clay when Rome and Israel were **mixed together** and **banded together** (Psalm 1:1-2; Acts 4:23-27) against Jesus (the Stone of Daniel 2), his apostles, Stephen, the believers, and Paul.

In **this study**, we examined the persecution Paul endured in the cities of the Roman Empire.

In our **next study**, we will examine the persecution Paul wrote about in his letters.

Thanks for being a part of this Bible Study!

*All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.*

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