

**A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke**  
**Teaching #31: Jerusalem's Redemption: Part Eight**  
**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** (**Matthew-John**)
  - persecute his **apostles** (ultimately killing one of his apostles – James, see Acts 12) (**Acts 4-12**)
  - persecute and kill **Stephen** (**Acts 6-7**)
  - persecute and kill **believers** (**Acts 4-9**)
  - persecute and try to kill **Paul** (**Acts 9-28**)

In our previous study, we learned that:

- 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, as the following verses indicate.

**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 provide the righteousness needed for eternal life.

Faith receives what God has done for us in Jesus.

When 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.

The righteousness and forgiveness is by grace through faith apart from the law or any works-based system.

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

**The Persecution Paul Endured**

In our previous study, we began examining the persecution Paul endured from the members of the clay during the time of the kingdom of iron mixed with clay (AD 1-70) and during the days of the kings prophesied about in Daniel 2:44-45 (AD 1-70).

Remember, these are **the latter days of old testament Israel** and the corrupt, perverse leadership of Israel during these days as prophesied about by Moses in Deuteronomy 31:29 and 32:5 (see also Acts 2:40) and by Daniel in Daniel 2:28.

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 grace through faith apart from the works of the law (see Luke #30 Teaching)

Last week, we began examining:

- The persecution Paul endured in the **cities of Rome**.

This is where we pick up in this study.

### THE PERSECUTION PAUL WROTE ABOUT IN HIS LETTERS

- Paul wrote letters while **on his missionary journeys**. (51 AD – 57 AD)
- Paul wrote letters while **in prison in Rome**. (62 AD – 67 AD)

#### Paul Wrote About Persecution In His Letters While On His Missionary Journeys

##### 1. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to the GALATIANS (51 AD).

###### Galatians 5:11

*Now, brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision [as a requirement for righteousness in accordance with the law of Moses], why am I still being **PERSECUTUED** [if Paul was teaching that circumcision was required for righteousness then he would not be persecuted by the Jewish leaders. However, Paul's message was that righteousness was by faith apart from the law. This message was offensive to many Jewish people; therefore they persecuted Paul]? In that case [if righteousness comes through obedience to the law of Moses, beginning with circumcision] **the offense of the cross has been abolished** [the cross was offensive to many of the Jewish leaders because the cross of Jesus is proof that the works of the law cannot make a person righteous. If the law could make a person righteous, then the cross is unnecessary. This was Paul's point to Peter in Galatians 2:21 when Peter returned to the law for righteousness – see Galatians 2:11-21].*

Today, the cross continues to be offensive to many believers in Jesus. This is because many believers in Jesus also believe that in addition to faith in Jesus that works, disciplines, commitment, and devotion are necessary to prove one's faith as genuine and to be in right relationship with God.

When the teaching of the cross is communicated, where a person is forgiven and righteous because of belief in Jesus, apart from works, disciplines, commitment, and devotion, it offends the believers who are teaching a mixture of a faith-based/works-based righteousness.

Even though the faith-based/works-based believers and teachers are saved only by faith in the work of Jesus on the cross, apart from their disciplines, commitment, and devotion, **the work of the cross is offensive to them** because it declares their disciplines, commitment, and devotion merit nothing with God.

Let's look at one more verse in Galatians where Paul writes about the persecution he endured.

### **Galatians 6:17**

*From now on let no one cause me trouble, for **I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.***

Paul's reference to the "marks of Jesus" on his body was a reference to being stoned (persecuted) in the Galatian city of Lystra for teaching that Jesus was the Christ and forgiveness and righteousness is by faith in Jesus apart from the law (Acts 14:19).

## **2. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to the THESSALONIANS (51 AD).**

### **1 Thessalonians 2:13-16**

*And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God [the word of God is that Jesus is the Messiah/Christ, the gospel of grace – forgiveness and righteousness are received by faith in Jesus apart from the works of the law], which you heard from us [Paul and his team in Acts 17], you accepted it [the message of Jesus as the Christ and that forgiveness is received by faith and righteousness is received by faith=justified] not as a human word [remember, Paul did not get his message from any person – Galatians 1:11-12], but as it actually is, the word of God [the gospel of God's grace – see Acts 20:24 and 32], which is indeed at work in you who believe [the gospel of God's grace goes to work inside those who believe]. For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea [the assembly of believers in the southern part of Israel where Jerusalem was located], which are in Christ Jesus: You [believers in Thessalonica] **suffered from your own people** [the unbelieving Gentiles in Thessalonica] **the same things those churches** [the assembly of believers in Judea where Jerusalem is located] **suffered from the** [unbelieving, corrupt leadership of Israel - the iron and clay kingdom] **Jews who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out** [Paul was continually driven out of cities by the Jewish unbelievers who were against Jesus and the gospel of God's grace]. **They** [the corrupt leadership of Israel as prophesied in Deuteronomy 32:5 that took place during the latter days of Israel – Daniel 2:28] **displease God and are hostile to everyone in their** [old testament, corrupt Israel, the clay] **effort to keep us from speaking** [the message about Jesus and the gospel of God's grace] **to the Gentiles so that they may be saved** [salvation is by grace through belief-faith in Jesus - Acts 2:21; Acts 4:12; Ephesians 2:8-9].*

## **3. Paul wrote about persecution in his second letter to the CORINTHIANS (56 AD).**

### **2 Corinthians 11:23-33 (see also 2 Corinthians 6:3-10)**

*I have worked much harder, been **in prison** more frequently, been **flogged** more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. **Five times I received from the Jews** [the corrupt leadership of Israel in the kingdom of iron and clay – the fourth kingdom] **the forty lashes minus one.** Three times I was **beaten with rods, once I***

**was pelted with stones** [Acts 14], *three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, **in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles** [the kingdom of iron and clay – Jews and Gentiles persecuting believers in Jesus]; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?*

*If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, who is to be praised forever, knows that I am not lying. **In Damascus the governor under King Aretas had the city of the Damascenes guarded in order to arrest me.** But I was lowered in a basket from a window in the wall and slipped through his hands [Acts 9].*

### **2 Corinthians 4:7-11**

*But we [Paul and his missionary team] have this treasure [the new testament of grace] in jars of clay [physical bodies] to show that this all-surpassing power [the power of the gospel of grace at work in the weakness of Paul and his team, enabling them to endure persecution] is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; **PERSECUTED**, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.*

Why did Paul not **give in to the persecution** and **give up proclaiming** the good news about God's grace?

### **2 Corinthians 4:15-16**

*All this [enduring persecution, trouble, and hardships as he traveled into cities to proclaim the gospel of grace] is for your benefit [those who heard the good news about the new testament of grace, forgiveness is received by faith, righteousness by faith, eternal life by faith], **so that the grace** [the good news of God's grace that forgiveness and righteousness is received through faith in Jesus and achieved not by following the law of Moses or any other law-based standard] **that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God.** Therefore we do not lose heart.*

### **Four Observations From 2 Corinthians 4:15-16**

**Observation #1:** Paul did not give up because he wanted to give more and more people the opportunity to hear the **good** news about God's grace.

**Observation #2:** When people hear the good news about God's grace, it produces **gladness** (benefit) within their hearts.

**Observation #3:** When people hear the good news about God's grace, it produces **gratitude** (thanksgiving to God for what he did through Jesus to forgive our sins, give us the gifts of righteousness, and eternal life) within their hearts.

**Observation #4:** When people hear the good news of God's grace, they see the goodness and greatness of God (glory).

Let's continue to read about the persecution Paul wrote about in his letters.

#### 4. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to the ROMANS (57 AD).

##### Romans 8:18

*I consider that our present sufferings [57 AD – see the previous study for the suffering Paul endured by the corrupt leadership of old testament Israel as he communicated the truth that Jesus is the Christ and that righteousness is by faith in Jesus apart from works of the law; this was also the time Nero was Emperor of the Roman Empire – 54 to 68 AD. Persecution of believers was unofficially happening throughout the Roman Empire at this time. But in AD 64, Nero began Rome's official persecution of believers in Jesus. Having them thrown to wild animals, burned at the stake, or crucified. These were the latter days of old testament Israel who were the clay of the Fourth Kingdom of iron mixed with clay. These were also the days of the kings in Daniel 2:44-45] are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us.*

##### Romans 8:35-39

*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or PERSECUTION or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written:*

*"For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." [Psalm 44:22]*

*No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons [heavenly rulers in the Greek] neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

We have examined the letters Paul wrote, concerning the persecution he endured, while he was on his missionary journeys.

Now let's take a look at the letters Paul wrote, concerning the persecution he endured, while he was in prison.

#### **The Letters Paul Wrote While He Was In Prison In Rome**

The next letters of Paul that we will examine were written while he was in prison in Rome.

Before we examine these letters, let's examine Paul's journey from Jerusalem to Rome.

How did Paul get from Jerusalem to Rome?

- **Charges were brought against Paul by the Jewish leaders in Jerusalem.**

In Acts 21-28, charges had been brought against Paul by the Jewish people and leaders while Paul was in Jerusalem. These charges eventually took Paul to Rome because he appealed his case to Caesar.

- Jesus told Paul he would testify about him in Rome.

#### **Acts 23:11 (62 AD)**

*The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage! As you have testified about Me in Jerusalem, so also **you must testify in Rome.**”*

- Paul was taken to Caesarea where he testified before Festus and appealed to Caesar.

#### **Acts 25:7-12 (62 AD)**

*When Paul arrived, **the Jews who had come down from Jerusalem stood around him, bringing many serious charges that they could not prove.** Then Paul made his defense: “I have committed no offense against the law of the Jews or against the temple or against Caesar [Nero].” But Festus, wishing to do the Jews a favor, said to Paul, “Are you willing to go up to Jerusalem to stand trial before me on these charges?”*

*Paul replied, “I am standing before the judgment seat of Caesar, where I ought to be tried. I have done nothing wrong to the Jews, as you yourself know very well. If, however, I am guilty of anything worthy of death, I do not refuse to die. But if there is no truth to their accusations against me, no one has the right to hand me over to them. **I appeal to Caesar!**”*

*Then Festus conferred with his council and replied, “**You have appealed to Caesar [Nero]. To Caesar you will go!**”*

- Paul communicated with those on the ship taking him to Rome.

#### **Acts 27:23-24 (62 AD)**

*[Paul said to those on the ship] “For just last night an angel of God, whose I am and whom I serve, stood beside me and said, ‘Do not be afraid, Paul; **you must stand before Caesar.**”*

The Roman Caesar that Paul likely stood before was **Nero**. Nero died in 68 AD. Paul was beheaded in 68 AD.

From Rome, Paul wrote while in prison what is called his **Prison Epistles**, or his letters to the churches and Pastors.

These letters contain remarks by Paul of his **sufferings** and **chains** – his imprisonment in Rome.

Remember, we are examining the persecution that took place during:

- 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 **banded** together to:
  - persecute and crucify **Jesus (Matthew-John)**
  - persecute his **apostles** (ultimately killing one of his apostles – James, see Acts 12) (**Acts 4-12**)

- persecute and kill Stephen (Acts 6-7)
- persecute and kill believers (Acts 4-9)
- persecute and try to kill Paul (Acts 9-28)

Paul wrote about persecution in his letters while on his missionary journeys.

Paul wrote about persecution in his letters while in prison in Rome.

## Paul Wrote About Persecution In His Letters While He Was In Prison In Rome

### 1. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to Ephesians (62 AD)

#### Ephesians 6:19-20

*Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth [to proclaim that Jesus is the Christ and to share the gospel of grace], words may be given me so that I will boldly [as we have seen in Acts, Paul was persecuted and he suffered for his message of grace] make known the mystery of the gospel [Jesus is the Christ, righteousness by faith apart from the law, Jews and Gentiles now form the spiritual temple of grace (Ephesians 2:11-22) – the spiritual kingdom of grace (the fifth kingdom in Daniel 2) - the great mountain of grace, Jew and Gentile in one family of grace apart from the law of Moses], for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may proclaim it fearlessly, as I should [to proclaim the message of the gospel of grace in Paul's time was a death sentence – both the Jews and Gentiles (the kingdom of iron and clay) wanted Paul dead].*

Paul was an ambassador of Jesus (speaking on behalf of Jesus) of the gospel of grace – see Acts 26:15-18; 20:24; Galatians 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:1-6; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21.

Paul spoke about and taught about the gospel of grace on behalf of Jesus.

### 2. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to Philippians (62 AD)

#### Philippians 1:7, 12-13

*It is right for me to feel this way about all of you [see Acts 16 when Paul went to Philippi], since I have you in my heart. For in my chains [in Rome] and in my defense and confirmation of the gospel [the message of Jesus as the Christ and that forgiveness and righteousness are received by faith apart from the law], you are all partners in grace with me... Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances [being imprisoned in Rome and chained to a Roman soldier while under house arrest – see Acts 28] have actually served to advance the gospel [the good news about Jesus as the Christ and his resurrection from the dead. The good news about his work on the cross to take our sinfulness and offer us his righteousness as a gift that is received by faith; forgiveness and righteousness are received by faith – see Acts 20:24; 26:15-18; Galatians 1:11-12; Ephesians 1-3; Acts 13:38-38; Romans 3:21-24]. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard [the elite group of Roman soldiers who were responsible for protecting the Emperor of Rome, which would have been Nero when Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians – see Acts 27:1; 28:16] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ [see Philippians 4:22 – Caesars' Household, which included the administrative officials for Nero all the way down to those who cleaned the Palace, heard about Jesus as a result of Paul's imprisonment in Rome].*



### 3. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to Colossians (62 AD)

#### Colossians 1:24

Now I rejoice in my **sufferings** for you [the suffering Paul experienced, the persecution he endured to get the gospel of grace to the Gentiles]...

#### Colossians 4:3 (see also verse 18)

...pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word [the gospel of God's grace], so that we may proclaim the mystery of Christ, for which I am in **chains**.

### 4. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to Philemon (62 AD)

#### Philemon 1:9-13

Paul—an old man and now also **a prisoner of Christ Jesus**...I appeal to you for my son Onesimus, who became my son while I was in **chains** [in Rome]. Formerly he was useless to you [Philemon], but now he has become useful both to you and to me. I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while **I am in chains for the gospel**.

**Note:** the church in Colossae met in Philemon's house. To learn more about how the church in Colossae was established, listen to my teachings about Colossians. See link below.

#### [Colossians #1: Paul's Connection To The Colossians](#)

### 5. Paul wrote about persecution in his letter to Timothy (written sometime between 64 to 67 AD).

#### 2 Timothy 1:6-12

For this reason I remind you [Timothy] to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his **prisoner** [in Rome]. Rather, **join with me in suffering for the gospel** [suffering because of the persecution that came from the proclamation that Jesus is the Christ and that righteousness is by grace through faith apart from the law, also that forgiveness is received by faith, justified by faith], by the power of God. He has saved us [Paul and Timothy] and called us [Paul and Timothy] to a holy life [a life set apart for the special purpose of proclaiming and teaching the gospel of grace]—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. **And of this gospel** [of grace] **I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher. THAT IS WHY** [because of the communication of the gospel of grace] **I AM SUFFERING AS I AM.**

#### 2 Timothy 1:16

May the Lord grant mercy to the household of Onesiphorus, because he has often refreshed me and was unashamed of my **chains**. Indeed, when he arrived in **Rome**, he searched diligently until he found me.

#### 2 Timothy 3:10-12

You, however, have observed my teaching, my conduct, my purpose, my faith, my patience, my love, my perseverance, my **persecutions**, and the **sufferings** that came upon me in **Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra** [Acts

13-14]. **What persecutions I endured!** Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. Indeed, all who desire to live godly lives in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...

## **2 Timothy 4:17-18**

*But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message would be fully proclaimed, and all the Gentiles would hear it. **So I was delivered from the mouth of the lion.** And the Lord will rescue me from every evil action and bring me safely into His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.*

In 66 AD, **the Jewish people revolted against Rome.**

In 68 AD, **Paul was beheaded in Rome.**

In 70 AD, **Jerusalem was destroyed by Rome.**

Jesus foretold of this destruction in Matthew 23-24; Mark 13; and Luke 21.

This leads us to the redemption of Jerusalem, which we will examine in our next study.

Thanks for being a part of this Bible Study!

*All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.*

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