



KINGDOM EMBASSY MINISTRIES

Remembering our Roots. Restoring Authority. Maturing Disciples. Advancing the Kingdom.

Portion:

SCRIPTURES

- Acts 27-28
- Romans 1:8-15
- I Corinthians 2

Title:

STAY IN THE BOAT!

- I'm Going Home Rome!
- What Dreams Are Made Of
- The Two Gospels

[Final musings of Paul] Too much information to integrate into a single thought. Too many inflection points and interconnections to assimilate. It all led to this one moment when all that God's been doing congealed in an instant, into one single reason: "For the hope..." Picture in your mind how it might be portrayed in a movie. It's the culmination of the entire narrative, the climax of the story that both reveals the final missing piece and settles every issue at once. Every question is answered when the main character rewinds every memory in ten seconds, reliving in his mind all the events you just spent two hours watching. It takes place in a single moment that amalgamates all the pieces, and the confusing twisted story of seemingly unrelated scenes suddenly all makes sense.

I wish I could make that happen for you. Maybe I can. God created man in His own image and then Adam sinned in the garden and creation went into a tailspin. It looked really bad and seemed to ruin everything. Man had departed from God and death was introduced. And somehow that horrible event must end with a better outcome than had Adam never tasted the fruit. The long twisted history of mankind ensues: murder and selfish desires; intrigue and greed and rebellion; prophets and judges and kings; the birth of a child called to save us all; rejected and crucified by more Adam-like men, as if nothing will ever change; those who believe and those who torture those who believe; and somehow the purple thread that weaves throughout the entire story, and holds it all together, never breaks. Zoom in and you can see the writing woven into its fibers. It says "Hope!"

And what is most fascinating of all is that I had this burning desire in my heart to somehow get to Rome, but I could never have imagined how God would make it happen. It's another of those purple threads. First there was the desire; then a prophecy ensuring I would one day be here; in between I was stoned and persecuted and ridiculed and rejected; then one day I was rescued by a Roman soldier as I was being beaten by Jews in Jerusalem; he sent me to testify in the Roman courts and I witnessed before governors, a king, and many prominent people; then I was asked if I'd prefer to return to the Jewish courts for a final ruling and I appealed my case to Caesar instead, right here in Rome. But it gets better. On my way here I almost died in a shipwreck in a storm, except God spoke to me again and reminded me of His promise that I must testify in Rome, so all I had to do was trust Him and stay in the boat. It's what Jonah would have done had he obeyed the Lord in the storm. It's what Peter would have done had he truly understood the Lord in the storm. And it's what you need to do. Stay in the boat in the storm and be saved!

All that has happened has brought me here, to this very moment, "For the hope!" I was born a Roman citizen; I was trained in the law by the most prestigious scholar; I became the worst persecutor of all; I had the most dramatic conversion; my journey was filled with fruit and torture; and all along I was desperate for this one thing. I would do anything to get to

Rome just to tell you this... *"For this reason, for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."* You see, it all looked lost when Adam ate from the forbidden tree and he introduced death into creation. But that Adam could die was there all along and we know this because he did. What I have to tell you now is that Adam's sin can work to your advantage. That is why I am in chains. Better than Adam had, who always faced the risk of dying, there is a greater promise, a promise of life everlasting without any risk. You don't have to die; you can live forever. All you need is Y'shua, the long awaited hope. All you need to do when the storm is raging is to stay in the boat!

PROPHETIC SEED:

"Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you." Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.**" Acts 27:24-25 NKJV

"Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **"Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."**" Acts 27:31

PROPHETIC FRUIT:

"For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain."**" Acts 28:20 NKJV

I'M GOING HOME ROME!

1. Just like Paul testified in Jerusalem...

A. ...He must testify in Rome

(1) The Voyage to Rome Begins (Acts 27:1-8)

(a) A decision is made to start their way to Rome...

1. "And when it was decided that we should sail to Italy, they delivered Paul and some other prisoners to one named Julius, a centurion of the Augustan Regiment. So, entering a ship of Adramyttium, we put to sea, meaning to sail along the coasts of Asia. Aristarchus, a Macedonian of Thessalonica, was with us. And the next day we landed at **Sidon**. And **Julius treated Paul kindly and gave him liberty to go to his friends and receive care**. When we had put to sea from there, we sailed **under the shelter of Cyprus**, because the winds were contrary. And when we had sailed over the sea which is off Cilicia and Pamphylia, **we came to Myra, a city of Lycia**. There the centurion found an **Alexandrian ship sailing to Italy**, and he put us on board. When we had sailed slowly many days, and **arrived with difficulty off Cnidus**, the wind not permitting us to proceed, we sailed under the shelter of **Crete off Salmone**. Passing it with difficulty, we came to a place called **Fair Havens, near the city of Lasea**." Acts 27:1-8 NKJV

(2) Paul's Warning Ignored (Acts 27:9-12)

(a) Heeding the Voices of the Majority

1. "Now when much time had been spent, and sailing was now dangerous because **the Fast** was already over, **Paul advised them**, saying, **"Men, I perceive that this voyage will end with disaster and much loss, not only of the cargo and ship, but also our lives."** Nevertheless the **centurion was more persuaded by the helmsman and the owner** of the ship than by the things spoken by Paul. And because the **harbor was not suitable to**

winter in, the **majority advised** to set sail from there also, **if by any means they could reach Phoenix**, a harbor of Crete opening toward the southwest and northwest, and winter there.” Acts 27:9-12 NKJV

(3) Tempest-tossed (**Acts 27:13-38**)

(a) They should have heeded Paul’s advice!

1. **“When the south wind blew softly, supposing that they had obtained their desire**, putting out to sea, they sailed close by Crete. But **not long after, a tempestuous head wind arose**, called Euroclydon. So when the ship was caught, and **could not head into the wind**, we let her drive. And running under the shelter of an island called Clauda, we secured the skiff with difficulty. When they had taken it on board, they **used cables to undergird the ship**; and fearing lest they should run aground on the **Syrtis Sands**, **they struck sail and so were driven**. And because we were **exceedingly tempest-tossed**, the next day they **lightened the ship**. On **the third day we threw the ship’s tackle overboard** with our own hands. Now when **neither sun nor stars appeared for many days**, and no small tempest beat on us, **all hope that we would be saved was finally given up**. But after long abstinence from food, then **Paul** stood in the midst of them and **said, “Men, you should have listened to me**, and not have sailed from Crete and incurred this disaster and loss. And now I urge you to **take heart, for there will be no loss of life** among you, but only of the ship. For there stood by me this night **an angel of the God** to whom I belong and whom I serve, saying, ‘**Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.**’ Therefore take heart, men, for **I believe God that it will be just as it was told me. However, we must run aground on a certain island.**” Now when the fourteenth night had come, as we were driven up and down in the Adriatic Sea, about midnight the **sailors sensed that they were drawing near some land**. And they took soundings and found it to be **twenty fathoms**; and when they had gone a little farther, they took soundings again and found it to be **fifteen fathoms**. Then, fearing lest we should run aground on the rocks, they dropped four anchors from the stern, and prayed for day to come. And as the sailors were seeking to escape from the ship, when they had let down the skiff into the sea, under pretense of putting out anchors from the prow, Paul said to the centurion and the soldiers, **“Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved.”** Then the soldiers cut away the ropes of the skiff and let it fall off. And as day was about to dawn, Paul implored them all to take food, saying, “Today is **the fourteenth day** you have waited and continued without food, and eaten nothing. Therefore I urge you to take nourishment, **for this is for your survival, since not a hair will fall from the head of any of you.**” And when he had said these things, **he took bread and gave thanks to God in the presence of them all**; and when he had broken it he began to eat. Then **they were all encouraged**, and also took food themselves. And in all we were **two hundred and seventy-six persons on the ship**. So when they had eaten enough, they lightened the ship and **threw out the wheat into the sea.**” Acts 27:13-38 NKJV
2. *“...without ceasing I [Paul] make mention of you always **in my prayers**, making request **if, by some means**, now at last **I may find a way in the will of God to come to you.**”* Romans 1:9-10 NKJV
3. *“But the following night the Lord stood by him and said, “Be of good cheer, Paul; for **as you have testified for Me in Jerusalem, so you must also bear witness at Rome.**””* Acts 23:11 NKJV
4. *“...**I appeal to Caesar [in Rome].**” Then Festus, when he had conferred with the council, answered, “**You have appealed to Caesar [in Rome]? To Caesar [in Rome] you shall go!**””* Acts 25:11-12 NKJV

5. *"Then Agrippa said to Festus, "This man might have been set free if he had not **appealed to Caesar [in Rome]**."" Acts 26:32 NKJV*
6. **And here:** *"[The angel] saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; **you must be brought before Caesar [in Rome]**; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'"* Acts 27:24 NKJV
7. TO PETER **"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."** They **immediately** left their nets and followed Him." (Matthew 4:19-20)
8. TO JONAH **"Arise, go to Nineveh... But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish** from the presence of the Lord..." (Jonah 1:2-3) **"Now the Lord had prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."** (Jonah 1:17)

B. Nothing new—just transformed!

(1) Let's integrate the new and old stories to create something "new" or "changed!"

(a) The Lord sent out a great wind on the sea...

1. "Now when He got into a boat, His disciples followed Him. **And suddenly a great tempest arose on the sea [Jonah: and there was a mighty tempest on the sea.], so that the boat was covered with the waves [Luke 8:23 they were filling with water, and were in jeopardy.] [Jonah: the ship was about to be broken up.]. But He was asleep [Jonah had gone down into the lowest parts of the ship, had lain down, and was fast asleep.] Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" [Jonah: What do you mean, sleeper? Arise, call on your God; perhaps your God will consider us, so that we may not perish.]** Matthew 8:23-25 NKJV

(b) "Paul said..., **"Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."**" Acts 27:31 NKJV

(2) How do we know?

(a) Kingdom Mystery (as the New and the Old collide). Between these verses in the NEW...

1. *"Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" (Matthew 8:25)*
2. **and what came next...** *"He said to them, "Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?" Then **He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.** "* (Matthew 8:26)
3. **"Unless these men stay in the ship, you cannot be saved."** Acts 27:31 NKJV

(3) Shipwrecked on Malta (**Acts 27:39-44**)

(a) As Paul predicted...

1. "When it was day, they did not recognize the land; but they **observed a bay with a beach**, onto which they **planned to run the ship if possible**. And they **let go the anchors and left them in the sea**, meanwhile loosing the rudder ropes; and they **hoisted the mainsail to the wind and made for shore**. But striking a place where two seas met, **they ran the ship aground; and the prow stuck fast and remained immovable**, but the **stern was being broken up** by the violence of the waves. And **the soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any of them should swim away and escape**. **But the centurion, wanting to save Paul, kept them from their purpose**, and commanded that those who could swim should jump overboard first and get to land, and the rest, some on boards and some on parts of the ship. And so it was that **they all escaped safely to land.**" Acts 27:39-44 NKJV

(4) Shipwrecked on Malta (**Acts 28:1-10**)

(a) From Murderer to Healer

1. “Now when they had escaped, they then found out that **the island was called Malta**. And **the natives showed us unusual kindness**; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid them on the fire, **a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand**. So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, **“No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live.”** But **he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm**. However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, **they changed their minds and said that he was a god**. In that region there was an estate of the leading citizen of the island, whose name was Publius, who received us and entertained us courteously for three days. And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. **Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him**. So when this was done, **the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed**. They also honored us in many ways; and **when we departed, they provided** such things as were necessary.” Acts 28:1-10 NKJV

WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

2. What happens when you stay in the boat?

A. Like in Jerusalem, Paul testifies in Rome

(1) Arrival in Rome (Acts 28:11-16)

(a) The final leg of the journey...

1. “**After three months** we sailed in an Alexandrian ship whose figurehead was the Twin Brothers, which had **wintered at the island**. And **landing at Syracuse**, we stayed three days. From there we circled round and reached **Rhegium**. And after one day the south wind blew; and the next day we came to **Puteoli**, where we found brethren, and were invited to **stay with them seven days**. And **so we went toward Rome**. And from there, when the brethren heard about us, they came to meet us as far as **Appii Forum and Three Inns**. **When Paul saw them, he thanked God and took courage**. **Now when we came to Rome, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the captain of the guard; but Paul was permitted to dwell by himself with the soldier who guarded him.**” Acts 28:11-16 NKJV
2. “*But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the **whole palace guard**, and to all the rest, **that my chains are in Christ**; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*” Philippians 1:12-14 NKJV

(2) Paul’s Ministry at Rome (Acts 28:17-31)

(a) A Dream Come True!

1. “And it came to pass **after three days that Paul called the leaders of the Jews together**. So when they had come together, he said to them: “**Men and brethren, though I have done nothing against our people** or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans, who, when they had examined me, wanted to let me go, because there was no cause for putting me to death. But

when the Jews spoke against it, **I was compelled to appeal to Caesar, not that I had anything of which to accuse my nation.** For this reason therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.**" Then they said to him, **"We neither received letters from Judea concerning you, nor have any of the brethren who came reported or spoken any evil of you.** But **we desire to hear from you** what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere." So **when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging,** to whom he **explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets,** from morning till evening. And **some were persuaded** by the things which were spoken, and **some disbelieved.** So when they did not agree among themselves, **they departed after Paul had said one word: "The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah** the prophet to our fathers, saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive; For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." [Isaiah 6:9-10] ' **"Therefore let it be known to you that the salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles, and they will hear it!"** And when he had said these words, the Jews departed and had a **great dispute** among themselves. Then **Paul dwelt two whole years in his own rented house,** and received all who came to him, **preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him."** Acts 28:17-31 NKJV

2. *"For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift, so that you may be established— that is, that I may be encouraged together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me."* Romans 1:11-12 NKJV

THE TWO GOSPELS

3. When you stay in the boat the kingdom comes...

A. Evidence that demands a verdict...

(1) The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) Stay in the Boat!

1. "But he who **endures to the end shall be saved.** And **this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then **the end will come.**" Matthew 24:13-14 NKJV

(2) Recognizing Two Gospels

(a) This AND That!

1. **"preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ** with all confidence, no one forbidding him." Acts 28:31 NKJV
2. "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [and] **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you;** and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen." Matthew 28:18-20 NKJV
3. "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those **who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.**" Revelation 14:12 NKJV

4. ***"Your kingdom come. Your will be done** On earth as it is in heaven."* Matthew 6:10 NKJV
5. *"For **this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments.** And His commandments are not burdensome."* I John 5:3 NKJV

(3) How do we get from here to there?

(a) Grace!

1. "Therefore, **having been justified by faith**, we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ**, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
2. "For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God," Ephesians 2:8 NKJV
3. "**Grace** and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as **His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue," II Peter 1:2-3 NKJV

B. Two Gospels perfectly summarized in 373 words (I Cor. 2)

(1) **One:** The Gospel of Salvation

(a) Christ Crucified!

1. "And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. For **I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.** I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And **my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit** and of power, that **your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**" I Corinthians 2:1-5 NKJV
2. "For **the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing**, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." I Corinthians 1:18 NKJV
3. "For **by grace you have been saved through faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is **the gift of God, not of works**, lest anyone should boast." Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV
4. "Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have **obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**" II Peter 1:1 NKJV

(2) **Two:** The Gospel of the Kingdom

(a) The Mind of Christ

1. "**However**, we speak wisdom among those who are **mature**, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak **the wisdom of God in a mystery**, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory**, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him." **But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.** For what man knows the things of a man **except the spirit of the man** which is in him? Even so **no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.** Now **we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know** the things that have been freely given to us by God. These

things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him;** nor can he know them, because **they are spiritually discerned.** But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. For **"who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ."** I Corinthians 2:6-16 NKJV

2. "For **we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works,** which God **prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."** Ephesians 2:10 NKJV
3. "Therefore, **having been justified by faith,** we have peace with God **through our Lord Jesus Christ,** through whom **also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand,** and rejoice in hope of the glory of God." Romans 5:1-2 NKJV
4. "And do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind,** that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." Romans 12:2 NKJV
5. "casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, **bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,** and being ready to punish all disobedience **when your obedience is fulfilled."** II Corinthians 10:5-6 NKJV

C. For this reason...

(1) Paul had a reason, what's yours?

(a) Paul's reason...

1. "**For this reason** therefore I have called for you, to see you and speak with you, because **for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.**" Acts 28:20 NKJV
2. "***preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ with all confidence, no one forbidding him.***" Acts 28:31

(b) What about you?

1. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and **always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,** with meekness and fear;" I Peter 3:15 NKJV
2. So I can put on the mind of Christ and when "...***beholding as in a mirror [I see] the glory of the Lord [staring back at me], [because I've been] transformed into [His] image*** from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord." II Corinthians 3:18
3. Which was exactly God's intention from the beginning when, "***God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.***" Genesis 1:27 NKJV

(c) All of creation is waiting...

1. "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages **for our glory,**" I Corinthians 2:7 NKJV
2. "For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; **because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**" Romans 8:19-21 NKJV
3. "***Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.***" Matthew 6:10 NKJV