

Acts 13:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

Analysis

And we declare unto you glad tidings (εὐαγγελιζόμεθα, euangelizometha)—Paul uses the verbal form of 'gospel' to proclaim the good news. This is not human opinion but apostolic announcement of divine fulfillment.

The promise which was made unto the fathers refers to the patriarchal covenant promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:3, 22:18, 26:4). Paul's sermon methodology moves from Jewish history (vv.16-25) through Christ's death and resurrection (vv.26-37) to application (vv.38-41). The 'promise' (ἐπαγγελία, epangelia) is singular—all Old Testament promises converge in the Messiah. This verse introduces the thesis statement of vv.32-37: Jesus's resurrection fulfills ancient covenant promises.

Historical Context

Paul delivered this sermon in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia (modern-day Turkey) during his first missionary journey around 47 AD. His audience included both Jews and God-fearing Gentiles familiar with Hebrew Scripture. This is Paul's first recorded sermon in Acts and establishes his evangelistic pattern: prove from Scripture that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's grounding of the gospel in Old Testament promises demonstrate the unity of Scripture and God's unchanging faithfulness?
2. What 'promises to the fathers' from Genesis through Malachi find their ultimate yes and amen in Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20)?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἡμεῖς	ὕμᾱς	εὐαγγελιζόμεθα	τὴν	πρὸς	τοὺς
And	we	unto you	declare	G3588	unto	G3588
G2532	G2249	G5209	G2097		G4314	
πατέρας	ἐπαγγελίαν	γενομένην				
the fathers	the promise	which was made				
G3962	G1860	G1096				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 4:13 (Covenant): For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

Acts 26:6 (Covenant): And now I stand and am judged for the hope of the promise made of God unto our fathers:

Ezekiel 34:23 (Parallel theme): And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.

Jeremiah 23:5 (Parallel theme): Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

Zechariah 6:12 (Parallel theme): And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD:

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org