

# Acts 19:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achaia, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome.

## Analysis

---

**Paul purposed in the spirit**—The phrase ambiguously might mean Paul's own spirit or the Holy Spirit's guidance. Likely both: Paul's resolute intention aligned with Spirit's direction. His itinerary—Macedonia, Achaia, Jerusalem, then Rome—traces the closing chapters of Acts, showing divine sovereignty over apostolic mission. **I must also see Rome** (δεῖ με καὶ Ῥώμην ἰδεῖν)—the verb δεῖ (must) appears throughout Luke-Acts for divine necessity. Paul sensed compelling obligation to reach the empire's capital, fulfilled unexpectedly through arrest and appeal to Caesar (Acts 25:11). God's purposes often arrive through paths we wouldn't choose.

## Historical Context

---

Written circa AD 54, this purpose was fulfilled AD 60-62 when Paul reached Rome as a prisoner. Romans 1:13-15 confirms Paul's long-standing desire to evangelize Rome. His journey through Macedonia and Achaia produced 2 Corinthians, and the Jerusalem visit (Acts 21) resulted in his arrest.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

---

1. How do you discern when personal desires align with the Spirit's direction for your life?
2. What does Paul's 'must see Rome' teach about persevering toward God-given goals despite obstacles?

## Interlinear Text

---

Ὡς G5613	δὲ G1161	ἐπληρώθη G4137	ταῦτα G5023	ἔθετο G5087	ὁ G3588	Παῦλος G3972	ἐν G1722	τῷ G3588
	After	were ended	these things	purposed		Paul	in	
πνεύματι G4151		διελθὼν G1330		τὴν G3588	Μακεδονίαν G3109	καὶ G2532		
	the spirit	when he had passed through			Macedonia	also		
Ἀχαΐαν G882	πορεύεσθαι G4198	εἰς G1519	Ἱερουσάλημ, G2419	εἰπὼν G2036	ὅτι G3754	Μετὰ G3326		
	Achaia	to go	to	Jerusalem	saying	After		
τὸ G3588	γενέσθαι G1096	με G3165	ἐκεῖ G1563	δεῖ G1163	με G3165	καὶ G2532	Ῥώμην G4516	ἰδεῖν G1492
	have been	I	there	must	I	also	Rome	see

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Acts 20:22** (Spirit): And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

**Acts 20:16** (References Paul): For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

**Acts 23:11** (References Paul): And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

**Acts 18:21** (References Jerusalem): But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

**Romans 1:13** (Parallel theme): Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles.