

# 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 ιδεῖν)—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

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

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