

Acts 2:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

Analysis

This geographic catalog demonstrates the fulfillment of Acts 1:8's commission - 'unto the uttermost part of the earth.' The specific enumeration of Parthia (Persia's successor), Media, Elam, Mesopotamia, and surrounding regions shows God's meticulous care in reaching Abraham's scattered descendants and all nations descended from Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Each region represented a distinct cultural and linguistic tradition now hearing God's works in their mother tongue.

Historical Context

Parthians and Medes represented the eastern frontier, former enemies of Israel. Mesopotamia was Abraham's original homeland (Ur of the Chaldees). Elamites descended from Noah's son Shem. This list traces salvation history from Genesis to the present moment, showing God's covenant faithfulness across centuries and geography.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does this passage demonstrate that salvation history encompasses all nations from creation onward?
2. What does God's inclusion of former enemies (Parthians, Medes) teach about the gospel's reconciling power?

Interlinear Text

Πάρθοι καὶ Μῆδοι καὶ Ἐλαμῖται καὶ οἱ κατοικοῦντες

Parthians and Medes and Elamites and the dwellers

G3934

G2532

G3370

G2532

G1639

G2532

G3588

the dwellers

G2730

τὴν Μεσοποταμίαν Ἰουδαίαν τε καὶ Καππαδοκίαν

in Mesopotamia in Judea and and Cappadocia

G3588

G3318

G2449

G5037

G2532

Cappadocia

G2587

Πόντον καὶ τὴν Ασίαν

in Pontus and Asia

G4195

G2532

G3588

G773

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 1:1 (Parallel theme): Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Revelation 1:4 (Parallel theme): John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Acts 16:6 (Parallel theme): Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,

Acts 18:2 (Parallel theme): And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.

Isaiah 11:11 (Parallel theme): And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea.

Acts 19:10 (Parallel theme): And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 6:9 (Parallel theme): Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

Genesis 14:1 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations;

Genesis 24:10 (Parallel theme): And the servant took ten camels of the camels of his master, and departed; for all the goods of his master were in his hand: and he arose, and went to Mesopotamia, unto the city of Nahor.

2 Kings 17:6 (Parallel theme): In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor by the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.