

Acts 23:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus's personal appearance - 'the Lord stood by him' - provided crucial encouragement when Paul needed it most. Christ's affirmation that Paul had 'testified of me in Jerusalem' validated his efforts despite apparent failure. The promise 'so must thou bear witness also at Rome' revealed God's sovereign plan and assured Paul his life would be preserved for this purpose.

Historical Context

This night vision occurred in the fortress, perhaps in a cell. Jesus's promise of Roman testimony would be fulfilled through Paul's appeals, voyage, and eventual arrival in Rome (Acts 28).

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. When have you experienced God's presence and reassurance after difficult or seemingly failed ministry efforts?

2. How does knowing God's future purposes for your life give courage to endure present hardships?

Interlinear Text

Τῇ δὲ ἐπιούσῃ νυκτὶ ἐπιστὰς αὐτῷ ὁ κύριος εἶπεν
G3588 **And** following the night stood by him G3588 the Lord and said
G1161 G1966 G3571 G2186 G846 G2962 G2036

Θάρσει Παῦλε· ὥς γὰρ διεμαρτύρω τὰ περὶ ἐμοῦ
Be of good cheer Paul as for thou hast testified G3588 of me
G2293 G3972 G5613 G1063 G1263 G4012 G1700

εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ οὕτως σε δεῖ καὶ εἰς Ῥώμην
at Jerusalem so thou must also at Rome
G1519 G2419 G3779 G4571 G1163 G2532 G1519 G4516

μαρτυρῆσαι
bear witness
G3140

Additional Cross-References

Acts 18:9 (References Lord): Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

Acts 19:21 (References Paul): 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.

Matthew 14:27 (Good): But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

2 Timothy 4:17 (References Lord): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Isaiah 41:10 (Parallel theme): Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Isaiah 41:14 (References Lord): Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 43:2 (Parallel theme): When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Matthew 9:2 (Good): And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.

Philippians 1:13 (Parallel theme): So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

Isaiah 46:10 (Parallel theme): Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: