Acts 28:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> For this cause therefore have I called for you, to see you, and to speak with you: because that for the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain.

Analysis

For the hope of Israel I am bound with this chain (ἕνεκα τῆς ἐλπίδος τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ)—Paul identifies resurrection hope as Judaism's core expectation. The 'hope of Israel' refers to Messianic promises fulfilled in Jesus' resurrection and believers' future bodily resurrection. His literal chain (σειράν—likely the chain connecting him to his guard) symbolized rejection by those whose own Scriptures promised this very hope. Paul's paradox: imprisoned for believing Israel's own hope. This demonstrates how religious institutions can oppose the very truths they claim to uphold.

Historical Context

The resurrection was central to Pharisaic Judaism, distinguishing them from Sadducees (Acts 23:6-8). Paul argued Christianity was true Judaism because Jesus' resurrection proved Messianic claims, fulfilling prophetic hope.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does understanding Christianity as fulfilled Judaism change your reading of the Old Testament?
2. What 'chains' have you experienced for maintaining biblical hope in opposition to religious convention?

Interlinear Text

διὰ	ταύτην	οὖν	τὴν	αἰτίαν	παρεκάλεσα	ὑμᾶς	ἰδεῖν
For	G3778	**therefore**	G3588	**cause**	**have I called**	**for you**	**to see**
G1223		G3767		G156	G3870	G5209	G1492

καὶ	προσλαλῆσαι	ἕνεκεν	γὰρ	τῆς	ἐλπίδος	τοῦ
you and	**to speak with**	**you because that**	**for**	G3588	**the hope**	G3588
G2532	G4354	G1752	G1063		G1680	

Ἰσραὴλ	τὴν	ἅλυσιν	ταύτην	περίκειμαι
of Israel	G3588	**chain**	G3778	**I am bound with**
G2474		G254		G4029

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:29 (Parallel theme): And Paul said, I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds.

Ephesians 6:20 (Parallel theme): For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

2 Timothy 2:9 (Parallel theme): Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

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

Acts 23:6 (Hope): But when Paul perceived that the one part were Sadducees, and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question.

Acts 24:15 (Hope): And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Acts 21:33 (Parallel theme): Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.