

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 (ἐνεκα 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

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

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 οἶδεν
For therefore cause have I called for you to see
G1223 G3778 G3588 G156 G3870 G5209 G1492

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

Ἰσραὴλ τὴν ἄλυσιν ταύτην περίκειμαι
of Israel chain I am bound with
G2474 G3588 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.

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