

Hebrews 13:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints.
They of Italy salute you.

Analysis

Salute all them that have the rule over you, and all the saints. They of Italy salute you. Final greetings emphasize church relationships. 'Salute all them that have the rule over you' (aspasasthe pantas tous hēgoumenous hymōn, ἀσπάσασθε πάντας τοὺς ἡγουμένους ὑμῶν) requests greetings be extended to church leaders, showing respect for pastoral authority. 'And all the saints' (kai pantas tous hagious) extends greetings to entire congregation—every believer deserves recognition and fellowship. This inclusive greeting reflects church as family, not hierarchy of important and insignificant members.

'They of Italy salute you' (aspazontai hymas hoi apo tēs Italias) could mean either

1. the author writes from Italy, sending greetings from Italian believers, or
2. the author writes elsewhere, sending greetings from displaced Italian Christians.

The phrase is ambiguous but confirms connection between readers and Italian church. If Hebrews addressed Roman Christians, this might reference believers scattered throughout Italy greeting their capital city brethren. If addressing other location, Italian diaspora sends greetings to fellow believers.

This demonstrates early Christianity's geographic spread and interconnection. Believers in one location maintained concern for others elsewhere. National or ethnic identities were secondary to spiritual kinship—Italian Christians felt bond with Jewish Christians and vice versa. The universal church transcends earthly

divisions, united in Christ. Greetings may seem perfunctory but represent profound reality: Christians worldwide are family, bound by common Lord and shared faith.

Historical Context

Italy, particularly Rome, hosted significant Christian community by mid-first century. Romans 16 lists numerous believers in Rome. Acts records Paul's Roman imprisonment and ministry there. Emperor Claudius expelled Jews (including Jewish Christians) from Rome circa 49 AD (Acts 18:2), scattering them throughout empire. By the 60s AD, Roman Christianity was well-established though facing intermittent persecution. The greeting from 'they of Italy' connects Hebrews' recipients to this influential church, showing early Christianity's network spanning the empire. Despite persecution, believers maintained fellowship across cities and regions, strengthened by traveling ministers and letter exchanges. These connections helped the church endure and spread despite opposition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does this greeting challenge you to maintain fellowship and concern for believers beyond your immediate community?
2. What does the instruction to greet both leaders and all saints teach about church relationships and mutual honor?
3. In what ways can you strengthen connections with Christians in other locations or from different backgrounds?

Interlinear Text

ἀσπάζονται πάντας τοὺς ἡγουμένους ὑμῶν καὶ
Salute **all** ^{G3588} **them that have the rule** **over you** **and**
G782 G3956 G2233 G5216 G2532

πάντας τοὺς ἁγίους ἀσπάζονται ὑμᾶς οἱ ἀπὸ τῆς
all ^{G3588} **the saints** **Salute** **you** ^{G3588} **They of** ^{G3588}
G3956 G40 G782 G5209 G575

Ἰταλίας
Italy
G2482

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 13:17 (Parallel theme): Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Hebrews 13:7 (Parallel theme): Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation.

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.

Philemon 1:5 (Holy): Hearing of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints;