

Luke 10:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Analysis

And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. Jesus couples miraculous power with proclamation. The command *therapeuete tous en autē astheneis* (θεραπεύετε τοὺς ἐν αὐτῇ ἀσθενεῖς, "heal the sick that are therein") uses the present imperative for continuous action—make healing a consistent practice. The term *therapeuō* (θεραπεύω) means to serve, care for, or heal, from which we derive "therapy."

The proclamation follows: **The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you** (Ēngiken eph' hymas hē basileia tou Theou, ἤγγικεν ἐφ' ὑμᾶς ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ). The perfect tense *ēngiken* (ἤγγικεν, "has come near") indicates completed action with ongoing results—God's kingdom has arrived and now stands at the door. This is the core gospel message: God's reign is breaking into history through Jesus Christ. Healing demonstrates the kingdom's power over sickness and Satan's dominion.

Word and deed combine in authentic witness. Healing validates the message and demonstrates God's compassion. This pattern continues in Acts: apostles performed signs and wonders confirming gospel proclamation (Acts 2:43, 5:12, 14:3). The **kingdom of God** (*basileia tou Theou*, βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ) is central to Jesus' teaching—God's sovereign rule restoring creation, defeating evil, and bringing salvation.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine was filled with sickness, demon possession, and physical affliction. Medical care was primitive and expensive. Jesus' healing ministry demonstrated messianic credentials (Isaiah 35:5-6, 61:1-2) and revealed God's compassion. The disciples' healing authority proved they represented Jesus. Miracles were 'signs' (σημεῖα, sēmeia) pointing to spiritual reality—God's kingdom breaking Satan's power. The early church continued this ministry: Peter healed the lame man (Acts 3), Philip performed miracles in Samaria (Acts 8), Paul healed on his journeys (Acts 14:8-10).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do healing and proclamation work together in gospel witness, and why does Jesus command both?
2. What does it mean that 'the kingdom of God is come nigh,' and how did Jesus' ministry inaugurate God's reign?
3. Should modern Christians expect miraculous healings to accompany gospel proclamation, and how should we understand when healing doesn't occur?

Interlinear Text

καὶ θεραπεύετε τοὺς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἀσθενεῖς καὶ
And **heal** ^{G3588} **that are therein** **unto them** **the sick** **And**
G2532 G2323 G1722 G846 G772 G2532

λέγετε αὐτοῖς Ἥγγικεν ἐφ' ὑμᾶς ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ
say **unto them** **is come nigh** **unto** **you** ^{G3588} **The kingdom** ^{G3588}
G3004 G846 G1448 G1909 G5209 G932

θεοῦ
of God
G2316

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 3:2 (Kingdom): And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

John 3:5 (Kingdom): Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Luke 10:11 (Kingdom): Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding be ye sure of this, that the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Acts 28:31 (Kingdom): Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.

Luke 9:2 (Kingdom): And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.