

Luke 9:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Analysis

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God (κηρύσσειν τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ)—The verb *kēryssō* means to herald as a royal messenger, not merely to teach. The apostles were commissioned as ambassadors of the coming Kingdom, announcing God's sovereign rule breaking into history through Christ. This was the same message John the Baptist proclaimed (Luke 3:3) and Jesus himself preached (Luke 4:43).

And to heal the sick (ἰᾶσθαι)—The pairing of proclamation and healing demonstrates the Kingdom's comprehensive nature: salvation addresses both spiritual and physical dimensions. The miracles authenticated the message and provided tangible evidence that God's rule brings restoration to fallen creation. This dual commission anticipates the Great Commission's authority 'in heaven and on earth' (Matthew 28:18).

Historical Context

Luke 9:1-6 records Jesus sending out the Twelve on a limited mission during his Galilean ministry (AD 28-29). This training mission prepared the apostles for their post-resurrection role. Unlike the later sending of the seventy-two (Luke 10), this was restricted to Israel ('Go not into the way of the Gentiles,' Matthew 10:5), fulfilling prophecy that Messiah would come 'to the lost sheep of the house of Israel' first (Matthew 15:24).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the pairing of preaching and healing challenge a purely 'spiritual' gospel that ignores physical suffering?
2. What does it mean to herald the Kingdom (not just invite people to church) in your cultural context?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀπέστειλεν	αὐτοὺς	κηρύσσειν	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τοῦ
And	he sent	them	to preach	G3588	the kingdom	G3588
G2532	G649	G846	G2784		G932	
θεοῦ	καὶ	ἰᾶσθαι	τοὺς	ἀσθενοῦντας		
of God	And	to heal	G3588	the sick		
G2316	G2532	G2390		G770		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:9 (Kingdom): And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

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

Mark 6:12 (Parallel theme): And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

Matthew 13:19 (Kingdom): When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

Matthew 24:14 (Kingdom): And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Luke 9:11 (Kingdom): And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

Mark 16:15 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

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.

Luke 16:16 (Kingdom): The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

Luke 10:1 (Parallel theme): After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come.