

Mark 13:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

Analysis

The gospel must first be published among all nations (Greek *eis panta ta ethnē prōton dei kērychthēnai to euangelion, εἰς πάντα τὰ ἔθνη πρῶτον δεῖ κηρυχθῆναι τὸ εὐαγγέλιον*). The verb *dei* (δεῖ, 'must') indicates divine necessity—God sovereignly purposes gospel proclamation before the end. *Kērychthēnai* (κηρυχθῆναι, 'be preached/published') means herald's public proclamation, not mere availability but authoritative announcement.

This fulfills Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and aligns with Revelation 5:9—redeemed from 'every kindred, tongue, people, and nation.' Does 'all nations' mean every ethnic group or geographical region? The Greek *ethnē* (ἔθνη) means peoples/ethnic groups, not political nations. Global evangelization precedes Christ's return (Matthew 24:14). This motivates missionary urgency—hastening the day (2 Peter 3:12). Yet debates continue whether 'published' means gospel heard everywhere or churches established everywhere.

Historical Context

Early church took this seriously. Pentecost included 'every nation under heaven' (Acts 2:5). Paul's mission reached Roman Empire's extent—Spain his goal (Romans 15:24). By AD 100, Christianity spread throughout Mediterranean, into Africa, Asia, possibly India. Medieval missions reached Northern Europe. Reformation sparked renewed missionary zeal. Modern missionary movement (William Carey, Hudson Taylor, etc.) reached previously unreached peoples. Today's missionary technology—translation, radio, internet—enables unprecedented gospel access.

Wycliffe Bible Translators, mission agencies work toward 'every tribe and tongue.' Debates continue whether task is complete—some estimate 3,000+ unreached people groups remain. Jesus' words motivate continued effort until He returns.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the divine necessity ('must') of global evangelization shape Christian mission priority and urgency?
2. What role do individual Christians play in fulfilling 'the gospel must first be published among all nations'?
3. How should churches balance various ministries with Jesus' clear mandate that gospel proclamation precedes His return?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἰς	πάντα	τὰ	ἔθνη	δεῖ	πρῶτον	κηρυχθῆναι	τὸ
And	among	all	G3588	nations	must	first	be published	G3588
G2532	G1519	G3956		G1484	G1163	G4412	G2784	

εὐαγγέλιον

the gospel

G2098

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:14 (Parallel theme): 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.

Colossians 1:23 (Parallel theme): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

Revelation 14:6 (Parallel theme): And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

Colossians 1:6 (Parallel theme): Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

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

Romans 10:18 (Parallel theme): But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.

Romans 15:19 (Parallel theme): Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Romans 1:8 (Parallel theme): First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.