

Romans 10:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

Analysis

And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!—The fifth question: Pōs de kēryxōsin ean mē apostalōsin? (πῶς δὲ κηρύξωσιν ἐὰν μὴ ἀποστάλωσιν; "How shall they preach unless they are sent?"). Apostellō (ἀποστέλλω, "send forth with commission/authority") gives us "apostle"—the sent one. Evangelism requires divine sending, not self-appointment (Heb 5:4; Jer 23:21). God sends through His church (Acts 13:1-4; Rom 15:24).

Paul quotes Isaiah 52:7, Hōs hōraioi hoi podes tōn euangelizomenōn agatha (ὥς ὥραῖοι οἱ πόδες τῶν εὐαγγελιζομένων ἀγαθὰ, "How beautiful the feet of those announcing good things"). Isaiah celebrated messengers announcing Jerusalem's restoration from exile. Paul applies it to gospel heralds. Hōraios (ὥραῖος, "beautiful, timely, seasonable") describes not aesthetic beauty but timely appropriateness—the joy of messengers bringing desperately needed good news. "Feet" represents the whole messenger, journeying to proclaim.

Historical Context

Isaiah 52:7-10 prophesied heralds running to announce Yahweh's return to Zion, Israel's redemption from Babylon, and universal salvation. In 537 BC, this found initial fulfillment in Cyrus's decree allowing exiles to return. Paul sees ultimate

fulfillment in gospel messengers announcing eschatological redemption in Christ. Ancient warfare made messengers vital—runners brought news of victory or defeat. Gospel preachers are victory heralds: Christ has triumphed, the war is won, peace is declared. This motivates missionary sending.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. Do you view preachers and missionaries with the joy and honor Paul prescribes ("beautiful feet")?
2. How is God calling you to be sent—in formal ministry or informal witness—to proclaim the gospel?
3. What makes the gospel "good news of peace" and "glad tidings" in our anxious, fragmented world?

Interlinear Text

πῶς	δὲ	κηρύξουσιν	ἐὰν	μὴ	ἀποσταλῶσιν	καθὼς
how	And	shall they preach	G1437	G3361	they be sent	as
G4459	G1161	G2784			G649	G2531
γέγραπται	Ὡς	ὠραῖοι	οἱ	πόδες	τῶν	
it is written	How	beautiful	G3588	are the feet of them	G3588	
G1125	G5613	G5611		G4228		
εὐαγγελιζομένων	εἰρήνην,	τῶν	εὐαγγελιζομένων	τὰ		
and bring glad tidings	of peace	G3588	and bring glad tidings	G3588		
G2097	G1515		G2097			
ἀγαθὰ						
of good things						
G18						

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 52:7 (Peace): How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

Nahum 1:15 (Peace): Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.

Ephesians 2:17 (Peace): And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

Isaiah 61:1 (Good): The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

Ephesians 6:15 (Peace): And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Isaiah 40:9 (Good): O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

Ephesians 3:8 (Parallel theme): Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

Jeremiah 23:32 (Parallel theme): Behold, I am against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD.

1 Peter 1:12 (Parallel theme): Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Isaiah 57:19 (Peace): I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him.