

Romans 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you: for I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company.

Analysis

Whensoever I take my journey into Spain, I will come to you (ώς ἀν πορεύωμαι εἰς τὴν Σπανίαν, ἐλεύσομαι πρὸς ὑμᾶς, hōs an poreuōmai eis tēn Spanian, eleusomai pros hymas)—Paul announces his next missionary frontier: Spanian (Spain), the western edge of the Roman Empire. This was virgin territory for the gospel—Paul's pioneer principle (vv. 20-21) driving him westward. Rome is strategically located en route to Spain, allowing him finally to visit while advancing his mission. Eleusomai (I will come) expresses confident intention (though qualified by 'if the Lord wills,' cf. Jas 4:15, implied in v. 32).

For I trust to see you in my journey, and to be brought on my way thitherward by you, if first I be somewhat filled with your company (έλπίζω γὰρ διαπορευόμενος θεάσασθαι ὑμᾶς καὶ ὑφ' ὑμῶν προπεμφθῆναι ἐκεῖ ἐὰν ὑμῶν πρῶτον ἀπὸ μέρους ἐμπλησθῶ, elpizō gar diaporeuomenos theasasthai hymas kai hyph' hymōn propemphthēnai ekei ean hymōn prōton apo merous emplēsthō)—Propemphthēnai (to be sent on, brought on the way) was technical term for sponsoring missionaries: financial support, provisions, travel arrangements (Acts 15:3, 1 Cor 16:6, Tit 3:13). Paul hoped the Roman church would become his sending church for Spanish mission—a partnership model. Emplēsthō (be filled/satisfied) with their company indicates he anticipated mutual refreshment, not mere logistical stopover.

Historical Context

There's no reliable evidence Paul reached Spain. Church tradition (1 Clement 5:7, Muratorian Canon) suggests he may have after his first Roman imprisonment (Acts 28), but it's uncertain. His arrest in Jerusalem (Acts 21) and two-year Caesarean imprisonment delayed everything (Acts 24-26). His arrival in Rome was as prisoner, not free missionary (Acts 28). Whether he later traveled to Spain remains debated.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's missionary vision—constantly pressing into unreached territory—challenge or inspire your evangelistic priorities?
2. What does Paul's request for the Roman church to 'send him on' to Spain teach about church responsibility in supporting missionaries and missions?
3. How do you balance enjoying fellowship ('being filled with your company') with maintaining forward mission momentum?

Interlinear Text

ώς ἐὰν πορεύωμαι εἰς τὴν Σπανίαν· ἐλεύσομαι
Whensoever if I take my journey into Spain I will come
G5613 G1437 G4198 G1519 G3588 G4681 G2064

πρὸς ὑμας ἐλπίζω γὰρ διαπορευόμενος θεάσασθαι ὑμας
to you I trust for in my journey to see you
G4314 G5209 G1679 G1063 G1279 G2300 G5209

καὶ ὑφ' ὑμῶν προπεμφθῆναι ἐκεῖ ἐὰν ὑμῶν
and by you to be brought on my way thitherward if you
G2532 G5259 G5216 G4311 G1563 G1437 G5216

πρῶτον ἀπὸ μέρους ἐμπλησθῶ
first with somewhat I be
G4412 G575 G3313 G1705

Additional Cross-References

Romans 15:28 (Parallel theme): When therefore I have performed this, and have sealed to them this fruit, I will come by you into Spain.

Romans 1:12 (Faith): That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Acts 15:3 (Parallel theme): And being brought on their way by the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren.