



A MESSAGE OF HUMILITY AND
HOPE FROM THE LIFE OF PAUL

THE *CHIEF* OF SINNERS

BAND OF BROTHERS / SPRING 2026

BAND of BROTHERS

SPRING SERIES 2026 – WEEK 11

Locked up, but not down

“I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you that I am bound with this chain because I believe that the hope of Israel—the Messiah—has already come.”

– Acts 28:20 NLT

- **At long last, Rome**

- 114 days later
- Paul arrives in Rome
- After 90 days shipwrecked on Malta

*It was three months after the shipwreck that we set sail on another ship that had wintered at the island — an Alexandrian ship with the twin gods as its figurehead. Our first stop was Syracuse, where we stayed three days. From there we sailed across to Rhegium. A day later a south wind began blowing, so the following day we sailed up the coast to Puteoli. There we found some believers, who invited us to spend a week with them. **And so we came to Rome.*** – Acts 28:11-14 NLT

- Why is Paul in Rome?
 - To stand trial before Caesar
- What is his crime?
 - Belief in the resurrection of Jesus

*“It is with respect **to the hope and the resurrection of the dead** that I am on trial.”* – Acts 23:6 ESV

*“But this I confess to you...that **there will be a resurrection of both the just and the unjust.**”* – Acts 24:14, 15 ESV

*“It is with respect **to the resurrection of the dead** that I am on trial before you this day.”* – Acts 24:21 ESV

*“I stand here on trial because of **my hope in the promise** made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes **hope** to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day. And for this **hope** I am accused by Jews, O king [Agrippa]! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that **God raises the dead?**” – Acts 26:6-7 ESV*

- **Paul meets the believers in Rome**

- He has been dying to meet them

*One of the things I always pray for is the opportunity, God willing, to come at last to see you. For **I long to visit you** so I can bring you some spiritual gift that will help you grow strong in the Lord. – Romans 1:10-11 NLT*

*I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, that I planned many times to visit you, but I was prevented until now....**So I am eager to come to you in Rome**, too, to preach the Good News. – Romans 1:13-15 NLT*

- **Israel’s hope fulfilled**

*And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him. After three days he called together the local leaders of the Jews, and when they had gathered, he said to them, “Brothers, though I had done nothing against our people or the customs of our fathers, yet I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. When they had examined me, they wished to set me at liberty, because there was no reason for the death penalty in my case. But because the Jews objected, **I was compelled to appeal to Caesar**—though I had no charge to bring against my nation. For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, **since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.**” – Acts 28:16-20 ESV*

- What did Paul mean by this phrase:

“It is with respect to the hope and the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial.” – Acts 23:6 ESV

*“I am on trial because of **my hope in the fulfillment of God’s promise made to our ancestors**. In fact, that is why the twelve tribes of Israel zealously worship God night and day, and **they share the same hope I have...that God can raise the dead...**” – Acts 26:6-7 NLT*

- He uses the singular
 - **epangelia** – ἐπαγγελία
 - a genitive singular noun
 - “A divine assurance of good”
 - Yet, God had made many promises

To Abraham

“I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” – Genesis 12:2 ESV

"...in [through] you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." – Genesis 12:3 ESV

"To your offspring [seed] I will give this land." – Genesis 12:7 ESV

To David

"I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth." – 2 Samuel 7:9 ESV

"I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom." – 2 Samuel 7:12 ESV

"I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever." – 2 Samuel 7:13 ESV

"And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever." – 2 Samuel 7:16 ESV

To Israel

"...you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." – Exodus 19:5-6 ESV

To Moses

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him." – Deuteronomy 18:18 ESV

- **The all-in-one solution**

- Jesus fulfilled it all...
 - ...with His death and resurrection
 - He is...the "promised one"
 - ...the fulfillment of every promise
 - ...the means to an end
 - ...the final solution
 - ...the alpha and omega
 - ...the beginning and the end

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. – 2 Corinthians 1:20 NLT

- Over the centuries, God has promised...
 - ...deliverance ...salvation
 - ...provision ...a righteous King
 - ...blessing ...an everlasting Kingdom
 - ...forgiveness ...and a restored relationship with Him

- **Jesus is THE promise**

- He created all things
- He will fulfill all things

“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” – Revelation 22:12-13 NLT

*The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Come, follow me.” Philip was from Bethsaida, Andrew and Peter’s hometown. Philip went to look for Nathanael and told him, “**We have found the very person Moses and the prophets wrote about!** His name is Jesus, the son of Joseph from Nazareth.” – John 1:43-45 NLT*

- **The promise of an everlasting kingdom**

“I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” – 2 Samuel 7:13 ESV

- Jesus fulfilled the promise
 - o He was a descendant of David
 - o But to **reign forever**, He must **live forever**
 - o Thus, the resurrection

- Peter preached...

“...he [David] was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah’s resurrection.” – Acts 2:30-31 NLT

- Paul preached...

“Another psalm explains it more fully: ‘You will not allow your Holy One to rot in the grave.’ This is not a reference to David, for after David had done the will of God in his own generation, he died and was buried with his ancestors, and his body decayed. No, it was a reference to someone else— someone whom God raised and whose body did not decay.” – Acts 13:35-37 NLT

This letter is from Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, chosen by God to be an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News. God promised this Good News long ago through his prophets in the holy Scriptures. The Good News is about his Son. In his earthly life he was born into King David’s family line, and he was shown to be the Son of God when he was raised from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus Christ our Lord. – Romans 1:1-4 NLT

- Jesus said...

“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star.” – Revelation 22:16 NLT

- God said...

Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel

*and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
"I am the first and I am the last;
besides me there is no god." – Isaiah 44:6 ESV*

*"I have found David, my servant;
with my holy oil I have anointed him,
so that my hand shall be established with him...
I will establish his offspring forever
and his throne as the days of the heavens.." – Psalm 89:20-21, 29 ESV*

- The angel said...

"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." – Luke 1:30-33 ESV

- **The promise to bless the nations**

"...in [through] you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." – Genesis 12:3 ESV

- Abraham did not yet have an heir
- But God had a plan

Paul's letter to the Romans

Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors. He also came so that the Gentiles might give glory to God for his mercies to them.

That is what the psalmist meant when he wrote:

*"For this, I will praise you among the Gentiles;
I will sing praises to your name." (Ps. 18:9)*

And in another place it is written,

"Rejoice with his people, you Gentiles." (Deut. 32:43)

And yet again,

"Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles.

Praise him, all you people of the earth." (Ps. 117:1)

And in another place Isaiah said,

*"The heir to David's throne will come,
and he will rule over the Gentiles.*

They will place their hope on him." (Is. 11:10) – Romans 15:8-12 NLT

- **The promise to preserve Israel**

"...you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation." – Exodus 19:6 NLT

- God had punished Israel
- But had promised to restore them

“Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign LORD: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect my holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations. I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations.

“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.” – Ezekiel 36:22-23, 25-27 NLT

- To be fulfilled by the resurrected Christ

I want you to understand this mystery, dear brothers and sisters, so that you will not feel proud about yourselves. Some of the people of Israel have hard hearts, but this will last only until the full number of Gentiles comes to Christ. And so all Israel will be saved. “The one who rescues will come from Jerusalem, and he will turn Israel away from ungodliness. And this is my covenant with them, that I will take away their sins.” – Romans 11:26-27 NLT

“Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.” – Zechariah 12:10 NLT

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. – Revelation 1:7 NLT

Then I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds so they did not blow on the earth or the sea, or even on any tree. And I saw another angel coming up from the east, carrying the seal of the living God. And he shouted to those four angels, who had been given power to harm land and sea, “Wait! Don’t harm the land or the sea or the trees until we have placed the seal of God on the foreheads of his servants.”

*“After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, **from every nation and tribe and people and language**, standing in front of the throne and **before the Lamb**. They were clothed in white robes and held palm branches in their hands. And they were shouting with a great roar, “Salvation comes from our God who sits on the throne and **from the Lamb!**” –*

Revelation 7:1-10 NLT

- **Confined but confident**

- Paul had made it to Rome
- But he was awaiting trial
- He spent 2 years under house arrest
- But he never lost hope

*“I asked you to come here today so we could get acquainted and so I could explain to you that I am bound with this chain because **I believe that the hope of Israel — the Messiah— has already come.**” – Acts 28:20 NLT*

*God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ — which is to fulfill his own good plan. And this is the plan: At the right time **he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ** — everything in heaven and on earth. – Ephesians 1:9-10 MLT*

*I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, **I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize** for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. – Philippians 3:13-14 NLT*

*Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, **you will share in all his glory.** – Colossians 3:1-4 NLT*

- **Discussion Questions:**

What do you think Paul means when he says to look forward to what lies ahead and set our minds on things above? How do we do that?

If Jesus is THE promise and not just a means to an ends, how should that change our outlook?

Why should the fact that we will one day share in His glory (glorification) motivate us as we live in this world?