

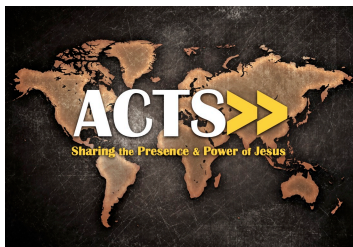
SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia Message...

The Ever-Advancing Kingdom

With Ryan Dawson - Lead Pastor

October 5, 2025



Acts 28:23-31 (NLT) So a time was set, and on that day a large number of people came to Paul's lodging. He explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening. ²⁴ Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe. ²⁵ And after they had argued back and forth among themselves, they left with this final word from Paul: "The Holy Spirit was right when he said to your ancestors through Isaiah the prophet, ²⁶ *'Go and say to this people: When you hear what I say, you will not understand. When you see what I do, you will not comprehend. ²⁷ For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them.'*" ²⁸ So I want you to know that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it." ³⁰ For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹ boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him.

What do we need to know about the Kingdom of God?

- **The Kingdom of God is beautiful.**

^{23b} "[Paul] explained and testified about the Kingdom of God and tried to persuade them about Jesus from the Scriptures. Using the law of Moses and the books of the prophets, he spoke to them from morning until evening."

- **The Kingdom of God is the rule & reign of Jesus, the loving leadership of God's Son—who came to make everything right in a world that has gone so wrong.**

Deuteronomy 18:15 (NLT) "Moses continued, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him.'"

Isaiah 7:14 (NLT) "...the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means 'God is with us')."

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT) "For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end."

Isaiah 53:5-6 (NLT) "But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all."

Micah 5:2 – "But you, O Bethlehem...are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf."

Zechariah 9:9 (NLT) "Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt."

- **The Kingdom of God exposes the heart.**

²⁴ "Some were persuaded by the things he said, but others did not believe."

²⁷ "For the hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes— so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to me and let me heal them."

Ezekiel 36:26 (NLT) "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."

"When people are born, they look like their parents; when they die, they look like their choices." Mark Clark

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) "This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!"

- **The Kingdom of God advances.**

²⁸ "So I want you to know that this salvation from God has also been offered to the Gentiles, and they will accept it." ³⁰ For the next two years, Paul lived in Rome at his own expense. He welcomed all who visited him, ³¹ boldly proclaiming the Kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. And no one tried to stop him."

Big Idea: The Kingdom of God is unstoppable—so love Jesus as your King, live under His reign, & join Him in his mission.

- **What has your heart more than Jesus?**
- **What burden do you need to surrender to the loving leadership of Jesus?**
- **Where can you take a step into mission with Jesus?**

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used today is the New Living Translation (NLT)



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.
To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

The Ever-Advancing Kingdom
#23 of 23 - October 5, 2025

Context

1. What is happening in Paul's life at this point in Acts, and why is it significant that he is still sharing the gospel even under house arrest
2. How does Acts 28 connect to the larger story of Luke–Acts (the life of Jesus and the growth of the church)?

Observation

3. According to verse 23, what was Paul's main message, and how did he present it?
4. How did people respond to Paul's teaching (vv. 24–25)? What do you notice about the mixed reactions?
5. In verses 30–31, what do you see about Paul's attitude and approach to ministry, even while confined?

Meaning

6. What does this passage teach us about the beauty of the Kingdom of God and how Jesus fulfills the Old Testament promises?
7. What does it reveal about the exposure of the heart—how people either accept or resist the message of Jesus?
8. What encouragement do you find in the truth that the Kingdom of God advances despite opposition, hardship, or circumstances?

Application

9. What lesser "kings" are you tempted to follow that cannot give life? How is Jesus inviting you to turn back to Him as the true King?
10. Where might God be calling you to step into His advancing Kingdom this week—through a conversation, an act of service, or an intentional step of faith?



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