

2 Thessalonians Ch 1: *Worthy of the Kingdom*
“Are You Being Prepared for the Kingdom?”
January 7, 2024

1 and 2 Thessalonians were the first letters by Paul to Europeans.

Why is “Europe” Europe and why is “Asia” Asia? It goes back to the sons and grandsons of Noah; see Genesis Ch 10, the “Table of Nations.”

Genesis 10:32 These are the families of the sons of Noah, according to their genealogies, by their nations; and out of these the nations were separated on the earth after the flood.

All the nations of the world came from these 70 offspring of Noah, separated and dispersed at the tower of Babel, about 100 years after the flood.

Three examples:

Gen 10:2 The sons of Japheth were Gomer...

Gomer’s family went North from Babel; it’s interesting that the language of Wales is Gomeræg.

Gen 10:6 The sons of Ham were Cush and Mizraim. . .

The peoples of Mizraim went Southwest from Babel; today modern Egypt is still called “Misr.”

Gen 10:15,16 Canaan became the father of Sidon, his firstborn, and...the Sinite. See **Isaiah 49:12**

It’s quite likely the Sinites went *very* far East, modern-day China (actually a form of the word Sina). It’s interesting that today “sino-“ is the adjectival form of China.

Asia represents the descendants of Ham, Europe of Japheth. Asia Minor, or modern-day Turkey, represents the geographic bridge between these two people groups.

See **Acts 16** and **17**. In Philippi, the first church enjoyed a certain amount of “state-sanctioned” legitimacy, owing to Paul’s Roman citizenship. In Thessalonica, such was not the case; Paul’s Roman citizenship was of no value there. Notice how the early church was treated in Thessalonica:

- Jealousy
- Victims of mob rule by wicked men
- Public resentment
- Marginalized and ostracized from society
- Violation of privacy
- Antagonism and threat from local government
- False accusations
- Unfair treatment and no respect for rights

2 Thessalonians 1

4 therefore, we ourselves speak proudly of you among the churches of God for your perseverance and faith in the midst of all your persecutions and afflictions which you endure.

5 This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgment so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which indeed you are suffering.

“worthy” (Gr *axios*) corresponding to; comparable to; fitting; appropriate

Perseverance and endurance in the face of persecutions and afflictions and suffering are fitting and appropriate for Kingdom preparation.