

Am I Willing to Pay the Human Cost of Kingdom Growth?

Acts 28:25-31

October 15, 2023

Review: Kingdom of God – there is a literal kingdom in store for Israel, on Earth, with Jesus as King; the kingdom recipients are not the physical offspring of Abraham, they are the spiritual offspring, through faith in Jesus Christ, just like Abraham (John 8:56).

A brief Biblical framework through which to view modern middle-eastern politics:

Genesis 12:3 And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse. . .

Genesis 15:6 Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:18 . . . from the river of Egypt as far as the great river, the river Euphrates:

Genesis 15:16 . . . for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete.”

Genesis 17:21 “But My covenant I will establish with Isaac

Genesis 21:9 . . . mocking.

Genesis 25:18 They settled from Havilah to Shur. . .

The sons of Ishmael still hate the sons of Isaac even to this day.

The fighting is not about real estate.

Acts 28:25 . . . “The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet. . .

Acts 1:16 . . . the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David.

Acts 4:25 who by the Holy Spirit, through the mouth of our father David . . .

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Both the Old and New Testaments were spoken by the Holy Spirit, through the mouths of men inspired by God; the OT is as much “sacred Scripture” as is the NT, and to discount the relevance of the OT is to remove much of the reproof and correction power of the NT. The Scripture must be “rightly divided” to accurately understand the relevance of the OT to the NT times.

How did the Good News spread from Acts 4:17 “But so that it will not spread any further among the people, let us warn them to speak no longer to any man in this name.” to Rome:

Acts 28:31 preaching the kingdom of God and teaching concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all openness, unhindered.?

Acts 4:18 they commanded them not to speak or teach

Acts 5:18 put them in a public jail.

Acts 5:40 flogged them

Acts 7:58 they began stoning him

Acts 9:1 breathing threats and murder

Acts 9:23 plotted together to do away with him,

Acts 12:2 put to death with a sword.

Acts 12: to arrest Peter also. . .

Acts 13:50 drove them out of their district.

Acts 14:5 to mistreat and to stone them,

Acts 14:19 they stoned Paul and dragged him out

Acts 16: 23 struck them with many blows

24 threw them into the inner prison

Acts 20:3 a plot was formed against him by the Jews

Acts 21:31 they were seeking to kill him

Acts 23:12 neither eat nor drink until they had killed Paul.

Acts 24:27 Felix left Paul imprisoned.

Acts 27:20 all hope of our being saved was gradually abandoned.

Acts 28:30 two full years in his own rented quarters

2 Corinthians 4:6-12

The kingdom grew because the apostles were not afraid to die.

Divine cost of Kingdom growth?

Divine Death, on the cross, leading to life!

Human cost of Kingdom growth?

Death, leading to life!

1. Martyrdom

2. Death to self

See **Romans 12:1,2**