

LION'S MOUTH

This lesson will conclude our study of the book of 2 Timothy.

During the month of April, Kirk Kniep will be teaching a special study entitled, "God's Change – America's Great Spiritual Awakening."

Encourage your friends and families and neighbors to attend this special study especially if you desire another great spiritual awakening in America.

We will begin by examining our lesson text by the following three homiletical points.

Traitor (2 Tim.4:14-15) (grace mental attitude) The Lord reward him according to his works.

Trial (2 Tim.4:16-18) (grace mental attitude) May it not be laid to their charge.

Team (2 Tim.4:19-22) (grace mental attitude) The Lord Jesus Christ be with thy spirit. **Grace** be with you.
Amen

Paul was sitting on death row in a Roman prison sentenced to death and wanting to see Timothy before being executed in the spring – "Do thy diligence to come before winter." (2 Tim.4:21)

This lesson will study six aspects of Paul's reference to the LION'S MOUTH

"But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear, **and I was delivered out of the lion's mouth.**" (2 Tim.4:17)

1. Many believe that Paul was arrested in Rome after returning from his fourth missionary trip to Spain.

"Whenever I go to **Spain** – for I hope to see you in passing, and to be helped on my way there by you, when I have first enjoyed your company for a while." (Rom.15:24, 28)

Rome had started persecuting Christians since the burning of Rome by Nero (64AD).

2. Paul was tried as a Roman citizen and defended himself against the charges.

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God." (2 Tim.1:8, 16)

"For which (gospel) I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned." (2 Tim.2:9)

"And indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted." (2 Tim.3:12)

3. A member of the Pauline missionary team named, Alexander, was Rome's star witness against Paul.

"Alexander the coppersmith did me much harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. Be on guard against him yourself, for he vigorously opposed our teachings" (2 Tim.4:14-15)

“At my first defense **no one** supported me, **but all deserted** me; may it not be counted against them. But the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me, in order that through me the proclamation might be fully accomplished, and that all the Gentiles might hear, and I was delivered out of the lion’s mouth.” (2 Tim.4:16-17; 4:10) **The believer plus the Lord is a majority!**

4. Paul was charged with a capital crime against Rome as a Christian gospel preacher. He was sentenced as a Roman citizen rather than as a Christian or Jew.

When Paul said that had been “delivered (rhuomai/ a.p.ind/ to rescue or dragged out of jaws of danger) out of the lion’s mouth,” he was talking about escaping the Roman arena and the “lion’s mouth” (2 Tim.4:17a).

As a Roman citizen, Paul will be beheaded at the age of 70 rather some other cruel form of death.

According to Church history, Paul was beheaded in the spring of 68AD on the Ostian Road in an open field. History also records that Nero died in June of 68AD.

5. Paul may have had biblical examples like these in mind regarding deliverance from the lion’s mouth.

Messianic prophecy – “They open wide their mouth at me, ravening and roaring like a **lion.**” (Ps.22:13)

“Save me from the **lion’s mouth**; and from the horns of the wild oxen Thou dost answer me.” (Ps.22:21)

Doctrinal concept of fear - “I sought the Lord, and He answered me, and delivered me from all my fears.” (Ps.34:4)

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.” (Ps.23:4)

“The Lord is for me; I will not fear; What can man do to me?” (Ps.118:6)

Doctrinal analogy of Satan - “Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experience of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world” (1 Pet.5:8-9)

6. When I think of what he accomplished in 35 years of ministry, I stand amazed. Paul’s ministry lasted from 33- 68AD.

- As the Apostle to the Gentiles, He evangelized the Roman Empire with four missionary trips.
- He established grace churches throughout the Roman Empire.
- He trained ministers in theology and in church ministry.
- He wrote 13 books of the NT.
- He was a highly educated person who spoke fluent Aramaic, Hebrew, Greek, and Latin.

Peter’s compliment of Paul: “Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless, and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also **our beloved brother Paul**, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in **all of his letters**, speaking in them are some things hard to understand, which the untaught an unstable distort, as they do also **the rest of the Scriptures**, to their own destruction.” (2 Pet.3:14-16)