

## WHO WILL HEAR?

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*The Word is to be present and heard at this time.*

As Paul went to Rome, he endured some extraordinary circumstances. The Jews at Rome said, “But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.” (Acts 28:22). This statement belies how much Christianity had spread through the Roman Empire before the death of Paul.

“And when they agreed not among themselves, they departed, after that Paul had spoken one word, Well spake the Holy Ghost by Esaias the prophet unto our fathers, Saying, Go unto this people, and say, Hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and not perceive: For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.” (Acts 28:25–27).

It was not that the Jews were physically deaf and blind, but that their heart was blind. Their understanding was darkened, and they were in a great ignorance, because they willingly closed themselves off from the truth. Yet, if they would receive the Word, and understand it, and be changed, they would be made right.

The promised of the Scripture is that some people would indeed be healed, that is, blessed. Paul said, “Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and *that* they will hear it.” (Acts 28:28).

Two great truths are revealed:

First, that the Word of God is promised by God to be conveyed, preserved and delivered to the Gentiles.

Second, that the Gentiles would willingly receive that Word, and would possess it, and have the fruits of it.

Jesus said, “Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” (Matthew 21:43). He is saying that the Bible is guaranteed to be alive and well at any future time.

This is in accordance with certain references in Scripture to which Gentiles, and even, which nations, should have the Word and be the example of the Kingdom of God to the Jews: “He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgment in the earth: and the isles shall wait for his law.” (Isaiah 42:4). Clearly, the prophecy is of GENTILES waiting for God’s law, because the Scripture shows that Gentiles inhabit the isles, while natural Israel is not located in any isles (Palestine is in the continent of Asia).

These promises provide great hope for Christians in Australia, that of all the nations in the world, Australia and New Zealand are in a position to be more used of God for

the advance of the Gospel in the future than any other nation.