

The World is the Lord's

Bible Glossary, People & Places

Rome

Sermon Reference

Rome is called the Eternal City. Its central position in the affairs of the Western world for more than 2 millennia embedded its name on our collective consciousness.

Background Context

Rome's history is steeped in legend and real historical significance. According to ancient Roman tradition, the city was founded in 753 BC by the twin brothers Romulus and Remus. The legend states that after a series of events, Romulus killed Remus and became the first ruler of Rome, lending his name to the city. Rome, initially a kingdom, transitioned into a republic around 509 BC after the overthrow of its last king. During the Roman Republic era, Rome expanded its territories significantly and laid the foundations of a legal and governmental system that profoundly influenced the development of Western civilization.

This expansion continued into the age of the Roman Empire, which began in 27 BC when Octavian, later known as Augustus, became the first Emperor of Rome. The empire reached its peak under Trajan in the second century AD, stretching from the Atlantic Ocean to the Persian Gulf, encompassing various cultures and peoples. Rome's architectural and engineering feats, such as aqueducts, roads, and monumental buildings, symbolized the power and grandeur of the empire. Christianity, which initially emerged as a marginal Jewish sect, grew in numbers and influence throughout this period, eventually becoming the dominant religion of the empire under Constantine in the 4th century AD.

After the fall of the Western Roman Empire in the 5th century AD, the Eastern Roman Empire, also known as the Byzantine Empire, continued to consider Rome as a spiritual and cultural center. During the medieval period, Rome was the heart of the Papal States and played a central role in the religious and political life of Europe. The city was a site of significant artistic and intellectual activity during the Renaissance, with figures like Michelangelo and Raphael contributing to its artistic legacy. The Papacy's influence over the city remained strong through the ages, and Rome became the capital of the newly unified Kingdom of Italy in 1870.

Today, Rome is the capital city of Italy and is known for its rich historical and cultural heritage. It is home to the Vatican City, an independent city-state enclaved within Rome and the seat of the Roman Catholic Church, making it an important place of pilgrimage. Rome's historical significance, architectural marvels, and the role it has played in shaping the world's religious and political contours make it an enduring symbol of human civilization, earning its title as the 'Eternal City'.

Importance in the Bible

Rome is not just historically significant; its biblical importance is also considerable. The Apostle Paul wrote his epistle to the Romans addressing both Jews and Gentiles. His teachings laid the groundwork for Christian theology. Rome's connection to Christianity deepened when it became the center of the Catholic Church. Today, it continues to be a vital touchstone of Christian heritage and global faith leadership as the residence of the Pope. Rome's impact on establishing and disseminating Christianity throughout the world cannot be overstated.

D.L. Moody

Sermon Reference

Years ago the great 19th century evangelist D.L. Moody met a young preacher called the boy preacher Harry Morehouse and invited him to someday come to Chicago.

Background Context

Dwight Lyman Moody, commonly referred to as D.L. Moody, was an influential American evangelist and publisher who lived from 1837 to 1899. Born in Northfield, Massachusetts, Moody moved to Boston to work in his uncle's shoe store, where he became a successful salesman. His religious conversion occurred in 1855, leading him to become involved in various Christian ministries. Moody moved to Chicago in 1856, where his endeavors eventually led him to full-time evangelistic work.

Moody is renowned for his role in the revivalist movement of the late 19th century, conducting evangelistic campaigns across the United States and the United Kingdom that drew thousands of attendees. His preaching style was straightforward and emotional, focusing on the need for personal conversion and a deep, personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Moody was also a supporter of education, founding the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, which continues to be a significant center for Christian education and training.

D.L. Moody's legacy includes his innovative use of music and media in evangelism, as well as his organizational skills, which were critical in the development of modern evangelistic campaigns. He also had a profound effect on future evangelists who would adopt and further develop his methods. Moody's impact on Christian evangelism was profound, with an estimated one million people professing faith in Christ as a result of his ministry.

Moody's significance extends beyond the numbers; his messages emphasized the accessibility of the Christian message and the belief that salvation was available to all, regardless of social status or background. He was deeply concerned with societal issues, including education and poverty, believing that faith should result in practical outreach and service. His influence was felt not only in religious circles but also in the broader culture, where he advocated for a Christianity relevant to the day-to-day lives of ordinary people.

Importance in the Bible

While D.L. Moody is not a biblical character, his dedication to spreading the Gospel exemplifies the spirit of Jesus' Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. Moody's life work of

evangelism resonates with the biblical call to share the good news of Jesus Christ, and his ministry illustrates the ongoing relevance and transformative power of the Scripture in the lives of individuals and society.

Harry Morehouse

Sermon Reference

Morehouse shows up in Chicago and Moody, who has gone from town, encourages the elders to put him in the pulpit to preach.

Background Context

Harry Morehouse, often known as 'The Boy Preacher,' was a young British evangelist who became known for his association with D.L. Moody. Morehouse was not as widely recognized as Moody, but his impact on Moody's theology, particularly concerning the love of God, was significant.

Morehouse's backstory is less well-documented than Moody's, but it is known that he began preaching at a young age in England and quickly became known for his effective communication of the Gospel. The relationship between Morehouse and Moody began when the former visited the United States and was invited by Moody to preach at his church in Chicago. Morehouse's sermons were characterized by an emphasis on God's love for sinners, as demonstrated through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. This contrasted with the prevailing focus on God's judgment and wrath during the period, and it profoundly influenced Moody's own preaching and theology.

Harry Morehouse's series of sermons using John 3:16 became a pivotal moment in Moody's ministry, shifting his message to a more grace-centered approach. Morehouse's interpretation of this verse echoed throughout Moody's subsequent evangelistic campaigns, influencing countless others who heard the message of God's love. While Morehouse did not have the widespread influence that Moody achieved, his contribution to evangelical theology and the emphasis on God's love cannot be overstated.

Morehouse's legacy lies in the transformation of evangelical preaching. His simple yet profound focus on God's love as a central theme of the Christian message has continued to shape evangelism and the presentation of the Gospel. Morehouse's emphasis on John 3:16 as the heart of the Gospel message serves as a testament to the power of Scripture to influence doctrine and personal belief, inspiring generations of Christians to approach evangelism with a message of love and grace.

Importance in the Bible

Similar to D.L. Moody, Harry Morehouse is not a figure from the biblical text. However, his life reflects the scriptural mandate to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Morehouse's emphasis on God's love, as portrayed in John 3:16, aligns with the biblical theme of God's compassion and grace toward humanity, offering a fresh perspective on divine love that has influenced Christian thought and practice.

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