

Acts 10:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Analysis

And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: Peter's eyewitness testimony combined with the stark reality of crucifixion provides historical foundation while introducing the gospel's central event.

Historical Context

We are witnesses establishes apostolic authority as eyewitnesses to Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection. The phrase hanged on a tree echoes Deuteronomy 21:22-23, suggesting Jesus bore covenant curse. Paul later develops this theology (Galatians 3:13). Peter's testimony around 40 CE in Cornelius's house provided Gentiles with firsthand account from Jesus' inner circle—powerful apologetic for Christianity's historical foundations.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. Why does eyewitness testimony matter for gospel credibility?
2. What does crucifixion ('hanged on tree') reveal about curse-bearing substitution?
3. How do apostolic witnesses authenticate gospel claims?
4. In what ways does historical particularity distinguish Christianity from mythological religions?
5. What role does Jesus' death play as gospel's central event?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἡμεῖς ἐσμεν μάρτυρες πάντων ὃν ἐποίησεν ἐν
And we are witnesses of all things which he did in
G2532 G2249 G2070 G3144 G3956 G3739 G4160 G1722

τε τῇ χώρᾳ τῶν Ἰουδαίων καὶ ἐν Ἱερουσαλήμ ὃν
both the land of the Jews And in Jerusalem which
G5037 G3588 G5561 G2453 G2532 G1722 G2419 G3739

ἀνεῖλον κρεμάσαντες ἐπὶ ξύλου
they slew and hanged on a tree
G337 G2910 G1909 G3586

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:48 (Witness): And ye are witnesses of these things.

Acts 10:41 (Witness): Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Acts 1:8 (Witness): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:32 (Witness): This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

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