

Acts 12:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.

Analysis

The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. Paul's sermon beginning with Exodus establishes God's initiative, sovereign choice, and redemptive pattern foundational for explaining Jesus.

Historical Context

This opening around 48 CE echoes Stephen's Acts 7 sermon—rehearsing redemptive history. Chose our fathers emphasizes election. Exalted the people during Egyptian sojourn recalls Joseph's story. High arm metaphor depicts powerful deliverance. Paul grounded gospel in Israel's known history, showing Jesus as culmination of God's long redemptive plan. This approach resonated with synagogue audiences steeped in Torah.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why begin gospel presentation with redemptive history rather than jumping to Jesus?
2. What does emphasizing God's choosing teach about salvation's nature?
3. How does Exodus typology illuminate Christ's greater deliverance?
4. In what ways does historical foundation strengthen gospel proclamation?
5. What role does election theology play in understanding salvation?

Interlinear Text

κατασείσας δὲ αὐτὸν τῇ χειρὶ σιγᾷ
he beckoning **And** **him** ^{G3588} **with the hand** **to hold their peace**
G2678 G1161 G846 G5495 G4601

διηγήσατο αὐτὸν πῶς ὁ κύριος αὐτὸν ἐξήγαγεν ἐκ
declared **him** **how** ^{G3588} **the Lord** **him** **had brought** **out of**
G1334 G846 G4459 G2962 G846 G1806 G1537

τῆς φυλακῆς εἶπεν δὲ Ἀπαγγείλατε Ἰακώβω καὶ τοῖς
^{G3588} **the prison** **he said** **And** **Go shew** **unto James** **And** ^{G3588}
G5438 G2036 G1161 G518 G2385 G2532

ἀδελφοῖς ταῦτα καὶ ἐξελθὼν ἐπορεύθη εἰς ἕτερον
to the brethren **these things** **And** **he departed** **and went** **into** **another**
G80 G5023 G2532 G1831 G4198 G1519 G2087

τόπον
place
G5117

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:40 (Parallel theme): And when he had given him licence, Paul stood on the stairs, and beckoned with the hand unto the people. And when there was made a great silence, he spake unto them in the Hebrew tongue, saying,

Acts 19:33 (Parallel theme): And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people.

Acts 13:16 (Parallel theme): Then Paul stood up, and beckoning with his hand said, Men of Israel, and ye that fear God, give audience.

Acts 21:18 (Parallel theme): And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

Acts 15:13 (Peace): And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

Galatians 2:12 (Parallel theme): For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision.

Galatians 1:19 (References Lord): But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

Galatians 2:9 (Parallel theme): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

1 Corinthians 15:7 (Parallel theme): After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles.

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.