

Acts 12:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

Analysis

And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man. The crowd's blasphemous flattery—calling Herod a god—represents ultimate human pride and sets immediate stage for divine judgment.

Historical Context

Josephus (Antiquities 19.8.2) confirms this account, describing crowd's acclamation and Herod's acceptance of divine honors. Emperor cult pervaded Roman world; eastern provinces readily deified rulers. The crowd's declaration around 44 CE crossed God's line—attributing deity to mortal man. Herod's failure to reject this blasphemy invited immediate judgment.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does accepting divine honor constitute blasphemy?
2. What dangers exist in flattering leaders to godlike status?
3. In what ways does crowd pressure tempt leaders toward pride?
4. Why does God judge acceptance of worship belonging to Him alone?
5. What does this teach about proper response when wrongly honored?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	δῆμος	ἐπεφώνει	Θεοῦ	φωνὴ	καὶ	οὐκ
G3588	And	the people	gave a shout	of a god	saying It is the voice	and	not
G1161		G1218		G2019		G2532	G3756
ἀνθρώπου							
of a man							
G444							

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 13:4 (Parallel theme): And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Daniel 6:7 (References God): All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions.

Jude 1:16 (Parallel theme): These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.