

Acts 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Analysis

The contrast between Herod's death and God's word growing emphasizes that human opposition cannot thwart divine purposes. The organic language ('grew and multiplied') suggests living, reproducing expansion through conversions and church planting. This summary statement shows that persecution strengthens rather than weakens the church.

Historical Context

Following Herod's death (AD 44), Jewish persecution of Christians temporarily lessened, allowing church expansion. This period saw the gospel spreading throughout the eastern Mediterranean, setting the stage for Paul's missionary journeys.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the contrast between human opposition and gospel growth teach about God's purposes?
2. How have you seen God's word flourish despite or through opposition?

Interlinear Text

Ο δὲ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ηὔξανεν καὶ ἐπληθύνετο
G3588 But the word G3588 of God G2316 grew G2532 and G4129 multiplied
G1161 G3056 G837

Additional Cross-References

Acts 6:7 (Word): And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.

Acts 19:20 (Word): So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 (Word): Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

Matthew 16:18 (Parallel theme): And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Acts 11:21 (Parallel theme): And the hand of the Lord was with them: and a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord.

Colossians 1:6 (References God): Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit, as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth: