

Acts 13:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

Analysis

Paul's paradox - Jerusalem's inhabitants and rulers 'knew him not' yet 'fulfilled' prophetic Scriptures by condemning Jesus - demonstrates how opposition to God can unwittingly accomplish His purposes. Their ignorance didn't excuse guilt but showed how spiritual blindness led them to fulfill precisely what they should have recognized. This reveals God's sovereignty in using even rebellion to accomplish redemption.

Historical Context

The irony that Jesus's executioners fulfilled the Scriptures they read 'every sabbath day' highlights tragic blindness. Their religious activity without spiritual perception led to crucifying the very Messiah Scripture predicted.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How can religious activity without spiritual perception lead to opposing God while thinking you serve Him?
2. What does this teach about God's ability to accomplish His purposes even through those who oppose Him?

Interlinear Text

τὰς γὰρ κατοικοῦντες ἐν Ἱερουσαλὴμ καὶ τὰς
which For they that dwell at Jerusalem and which
G3588 G1063 G2730 G1722 G2419 G2532 G3588

Ἄρχοντες αὐτῶν τοῦτον ἀγνοήσαντες καὶ τὰς φωνὰς
rulers their him because they knew and which the voices
G758 G846 G5126 G50 G2532 G3588 G5456

τὰς προφητῶν τὰς κατὰ πᾶν σάββατον
which of the prophets which G2596 every sabbath day
G3588 G4396 G3588 G3956 G4521

ἀναγινωσκομένας κρίναντες ἐπλήρωσαν
are read them in condemning they have fulfilled
G314 G2919 G4137

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:17 (Parallel theme): And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Acts 15:21 (Parallel theme): For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Luke 24:20 (Parallel theme): And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

Romans 11:25 (Parallel theme): For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

John 15:21 (Parallel theme): But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me.