

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

1 John 4:8 — God is 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.

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