

Acts 13:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.

Analysis

And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. The Greek phrase schedon pasa hē polis (σχεδὸν πᾶσα ἡ πόλις) emphasizes the remarkable scope—'almost the entire city'—gathering to hear the logos tou Theou (λόγον τοῦ Θεοῦ), the word of God. This explosive growth in one week reveals the Spirit's sovereign work in Pisidian Antioch, as Gentiles hungered for the gospel that most Jews would reject.

The contrast is stunning: verse 42 shows Gentiles begging Paul to return; verse 44 shows them flooding the synagogue. What began as a Jewish assembly became overwhelmingly Gentile, foreshadowing the church's future composition. The phrase to hear (ἀκοῦσαι, akousai) indicates more than casual listening—they came with expectant faith to receive God's authoritative word, the same response Jesus commended: 'He who has ears to hear, let him hear.'

Historical Context

Pisidian Antioch was a Roman colony in Asia Minor with significant Jewish and Gentile populations. Paul's first sabbath message (13:16-41) had clearly resonated beyond the synagogue, spreading throughout the city during the week. This mass gathering would have filled and overflowed the synagogue, creating visible evidence of Gentile interest that triggered Jewish jealousy (v. 45).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What in Paul's message (Acts 13:16-41) caused such explosive interest that the whole city gathered to hear more?
2. When have you seen God's word draw unexpected crowds or create hunger in unlikely people?

Interlinear Text

Τῷ	δὲ	ἐρχομένῳ	σαββάτῳ	σχεδὸν	πᾶσα	ἡ	πόλις
G3588	And	the next	sabbath day	almost	the whole	G3588	city
G1161		G2064	G4521	G4975	G3956		G4172
συνήχθη	ἀκοῦσαι	τὸν	λόγον	τοῦ	Θεοῦ		
came	to hear	G3588	the word	G3588	of God		
G4863		G191	G3056		G2316		

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