

Acts 13:46

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Analysis

Paul and Barnabas's bold declaration - 'It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you... lo, we turn to the Gentiles' - marks a theological turning point. God's historical priority for Israel (Romans 1:16) didn't exclude Gentiles but established the pattern. Jewish rejection opened the door for Gentile inclusion, demonstrating how God's purposes advance even through opposition.

Historical Context

This statement in Pisidian Antioch established precedent for Paul's later ministry pattern: synagogue preaching first, then turning to Gentiles when Jews rejected the message. It reflected God's redemptive history from particular (Israel) to universal (all nations).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God's commitment to His purposes persist even when initial recipients reject His offer?
2. What does this teach about the relationship between God's historical dealings with Israel and the church's Gentile mission?

Interlinear Text

παρέβησιασάμενοί δὲ ὁ Παῦλος καὶ ὁ Βαρναβᾶς
waxed bold **Then** **G3588** **Paul** **and** **G3588** **Barnabas**
G3955 G1161 G3972 G2532 G921

εἶπον, 'Υμῖν ἦν ἀναγκαῖον πρῶτον λαληθῆναι τὸν
and said **to you** **It was** **necessary** **first** **have been spoken** **G3588**
G2036 G5213 G2258 G316 G4412 G2980

λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ· ἐπειδὴ δὲ ἀπωθεῖσθε αὐτὸν καὶ
that the word **G3588** **of God** **seeing** **Then** **from you** **it** **and**
G3056 G2316 G1894 G1161 G683 G846 G2532

οὐκ ἀξίους κρίνετε ἐαυτοὺς τῆς αἰωνίου ζωῆς
unworthy **G514** **judge** **yourselfs** **G3588** **of everlasting** **life**
G3756 G2919 G1438 G166 G2222

ἰδού, στρεφόμεθα εἰς τὰ ἔθνη
to **we turn** **to** **G3588** **the Gentiles**
G2400 G4762 G1519 G1484

Additional Cross-References

Acts 28:28 (References God): Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Acts 3:26 (References God): Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Acts 26:20 (References God): But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Matthew 21:43 (References God): Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

Romans 2:10 (Parallel theme): But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

Romans 1:16 (References God): For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Acts 22:21 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Acts 13:26 (Word): Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

Isaiah 55:5 (References God): Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the LORD thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel; for he hath glorified thee.

John 1:11 (Parallel theme): He came unto his own, and his own received him not.