

Acts 13:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Analysis

And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region (διεφέρετο ὁ λόγος τοῦ κυρίου, *diephereto ho logos tou kyriou*)—the imperfect tense indicates continuous, ongoing spread. The verb *diapherō* means 'to carry through, spread abroad,' emphasizing active dissemination, not passive diffusion. **The word of the Lord** (ὁ λόγος τοῦ κυρίου) refers to the gospel message about Christ, the authoritative divine message proclaimed by Paul and Barnabas.

This verse concludes Paul's first missionary sermon in Pisidian Antioch, demonstrating the unstoppable nature of gospel advancement even amid persecution. The Gentiles' eager reception (v. 48) created a missionary movement where new converts became witnesses. This pattern—gospel preached, believed, then spread by believers—became the New Testament model for church expansion, fulfilling Christ's commission that disciples would be His witnesses 'to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8).

Historical Context

After being expelled from the synagogue in Pisidian Antioch (around AD 47-48), Paul and Barnabas turned to the Gentiles, who received the message with joy (v. 48). Despite opposition from Jewish leaders (v. 50), the gospel spread throughout the region of Galatia. This established the pattern for Paul's subsequent missionary journeys—synagogue rejection leading to Gentile breakthrough.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What practical steps can you take to ensure that the 'word of the Lord' continues spreading through your witness to those around you?
2. How does the ongoing spread of the gospel despite persecution challenge your understanding of God's sovereignty in evangelism?

Interlinear Text

διεφέρετο	δὲ	ὁ	λόγος	τοῦ	κυρίου	δι'	ὅλης	τῆς
was published	And		the word		of the Lord	throughout	all	
G1308	G1161	G3588	G3056	G3588	G2962	G1223	G3650	G3588

χώρας
the region
G5561

Additional Cross-References

Acts 12:24 (Word): But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 19:10 (Word): And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

Acts 19:26 (Parallel theme): Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands:

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 9:42 (References Lord): And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord.

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