

Acts 14:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles, and made their minds evil affected against the brethren.

Analysis

The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles—The Greek *ēgeiran* (stirred up) suggests deliberate agitation, arousing latent hostility. **Made their minds evil affected** translates *ekakōsan tas psychas* (poisoned the souls), depicting systematic corruption of attitudes through slander. This reveals how religious opposition weaponizes community sentiment against Christ's witnesses. The 'unbelieving Jews' (*hoi apeithēsantes Ioudaioi*—the disobedient Jews) shows unbelief as active rebellion, not passive doubt. Their tactics converted theological disagreement into civic persecution.

Historical Context

In Roman Asia Minor, Jews had legal protections and social influence. By portraying Paul and Barnabas as disturbers of peace threatening social stability, opponents could mobilize Roman authorities and pagan populations against the missionaries. This strategy reappeared throughout Acts.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you respond when opposition comes through manipulation of public opinion rather than direct confrontation?
2. What does 'poisoned the souls' teach about the lasting damage of slander and how to combat it?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	ἀπειθοῦντες	Ἰουδαῖοι	ἐπήγειραν	καὶ	ἐκάκωσαν
G3588	But	the unbelieving	Jews	stirred up	and	evil affected
	G1161	G544	G2453	G1892	G2532	G2559
τὰς	ψυχὰς	τῶν	ἐθνῶν	κατὰ	τῶν	ἀδελφῶν
G3588	their minds	G3588	the Gentiles	against	G3588	the brethren
	G5590		G1484	G2596		G80

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:50 (Parallel theme): But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Acts 14:19 (Parallel theme): And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead.

Acts 17:5 (Faith): But the Jews which believed not, moved with envy, took unto them certain lewd fellows of the baser sort, and gathered a company, and set all the city on an uproar, and assaulted the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people.

Acts 13:45 (Parallel theme): But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

Acts 17:13 (Parallel theme): But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

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