

Acts 14:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.

Analysis

Paul's message 'we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God' presents suffering as normative Christian experience, not exceptional. The Greek 'dei' (must) indicates divine necessity, not optional hardship. This realistic discipleship contrasts modern prosperity gospel, emphasizing that kingdom glory comes through present tribulation.

Historical Context

Paul delivered this message while revisiting churches in Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch (AD 49)—cities where he'd recently faced persecution and stoning. His teaching from fresh experience authenticated that tribulation strengthens rather than invalidates faith.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the necessity of tribulation reshape contemporary comfort-focused Christianity?
2. What comfort does this teaching offer believers currently facing persecution or hardship?

Interlinear Text

ἐπιστηρίζοντες τὰς ψυχὰς τῶν μαθητῶν παρακαλοῦντες
Confirming the souls of the disciples and exhorting them
G1991 G3588 G5590 G3101 G3870

ἐμμένειν τῇ πίστει καὶ ὅτι διὰ πολλῶν θλίψεων
to continue in the faith and that through much tribulation
G1696 G3588 G4102 G2532 G3754 G1223 G4183 G2347

δεῖ ἡμᾶς εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ
must we enter into the kingdom of God
G1163 G2248 G1525 G1519 G3588 G932 G3588 G2316

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 5:10 (References God): But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

2 Timothy 3:12 (References God): Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

John 16:33 (Parallel theme): These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Revelation 2:10 (Faith): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Romans 8:17 (References God): And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

Colossians 1:23 (Faith): If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

2 Timothy 1:8 (References God): Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

Acts 18:23 (Parallel theme): And after he had spent some time there, he departed, and went over all the country of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples.

Revelation 7:14 (Parallel theme): And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

2 Peter 1:11 (Kingdom): For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.