

Acts 15:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying,
Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

Analysis

James (the Lord's brother and Jerusalem church leader) rose to give the decisive judgment. His leadership role shows the transition from Peter's early prominence to James's position as head of the Jerusalem church. The Greek 'apekrithē' (answered) implies authoritative pronouncement. James would synthesize Peter's testimony, Paul's report, and scriptural evidence into a binding decision.

Historical Context

James the Just, Jesus' half-brother, had become a believer after the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:7) and emerged as the Jerusalem church's primary leader. His reputation for piety gave him credibility with Jewish Christians.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What qualities should characterize those who lead theological discussions?
2. How did God prepare James for this crucial leadership moment?
3. What role does godly leadership play in resolving church conflicts?

Interlinear Text

Μετὰ	δὲ	τὸ	σιγῆσαι	αὐτοὺς	ἀπεκρίθη	Ἰάκωβος
after	And	G3588	peace	they had held their	answered	James
G3326	G1161		G4601	G846	G611	G2385
λέγων,	Ἄνδρες	ἀδελφοί	ἀκούσατέ	μου		
saying	Men	and brethren	hearken	unto me		
G3004	G435	G80	G191	G3450		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 12:17 (Peace): But he, beckoning unto them with the hand to hold their peace, declared unto them how the Lord had brought him out of the prison. And he said, Go shew these things unto James, and to the brethren. And he departed, and went into another place.