

Acts 15:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question.

Analysis

Paul and Barnabas engage in 'no small dissension' (Greek 'stasis' - conflict, uprising) because the gospel itself was at stake. They refused to compromise on justification by faith alone. The decision to appeal to the apostles and elders in Jerusalem demonstrates biblical church government and the importance of doctrinal unity. This establishes precedent for resolving theological disputes through godly counsel.

Historical Context

This delegation to Jerusalem (Paul's second visit per Galatians 2) occurred around AD 49. The journey from Syrian Antioch to Jerusalem was approximately 300 miles, showing the seriousness with which they treated this doctrinal matter.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. When should Christians contend vigorously for doctrinal truth versus seek peace?
2. How does church leadership properly adjudicate theological disputes today?
3. What gospel truths are worth defending even at the cost of conflict?

Interlinear Text

γενομένης οὖν στάσεως καὶ συζητήσεως οὐκ
had When therefore dissension and disputation no
G1096 G3767 G4714 G2532 G4803 G3756

όλιγης τῷ Παῦλον καὶ τῷ Βαρναβᾶν πρὸς αὐτῶν
small Paul and Barnabas unto them
G3641 G3972 G2532 G921 G4314 G846

ἔταξαν ἀναβαίνειν Παῦλον καὶ Βαρναβᾶν καὶ τινας
they determined should go up Paul and Barnabas and certain
G5021 G305 G3972 G2532 G921 G2532 G5100

ἄλλους ἐξ αὐτῶν πρὸς τοὺς ἀποστόλους καὶ
other of them unto the apostles and
G243 G1537 G846 G4314 G3588 G652 G2532

πρεσβυτέρους εἰς Ἱερουσαλὴμ περὶ τοῦ ζητήματος τούτου
elders to Jerusalem about question this
G4245 G1519 G2419 G4012 G3588 G2213 G5127

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:30 (Parallel theme): Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Acts 15:4 (References Jerusalem): And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them.

