

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		
ὀλίγης	τῷ	Παῦλον	καὶ	τῷ	Βαρναβᾶν	πρὸς	αὐτῶν
small		Paul	and		Barnabas	unto	them
G3641	G3588	G3972	G2532	G3588	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.

