

Acts 15:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him,
being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Analysis

James notes that Moses is 'read in the synagogues every sabbath day,' acknowledging Jewish believers' continued connection to their heritage. However, this doesn't mean Gentiles must become Jews. Rather, James will propose minimal restrictions for Gentile-Jewish fellowship, removing stumbling blocks while maintaining gospel freedom.

Historical Context

Synagogue services included Torah readings every Sabbath, maintaining Jewish identity and law-knowledge throughout the diaspora. This practice had existed for centuries since the Babylonian exile.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How should Christians honor biblical heritage without imposing legalism?
2. What role does Scripture reading play in maintaining doctrinal purity?
3. How can we preserve tradition without adding to gospel requirements?

Interlinear Text

Μωσῆς	γὰρ	ἐκ	γενεῶν	ἀρχαίων	κατὰ	πόλιν	τοὺς
Moses	For	of	time	old	every	city	G3588
G3475	G1063	G1537	G1074	G744	G2596	G4172	
κηρύσσοντας	αὐτὸν	ἔχει	ἐν	ταῖς	συναγωγαῖς	κατὰ	πάν
them that preach	him	hath	in	G3588	the synagogues	every	G3956
G2784	G846	G2192	G1722		G4864	G2596	
σάββατον	ἀναγινωσκόμενος						
sabbath day	being read						
G4521	G314						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:15 (Parallel theme): And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men and brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on.

Acts 13:27 (Parallel theme): For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.