

Acts 17:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge that the word of God was preached of Paul at Berea, they came thither also, and stirred up the people.

Analysis

When the Jews of Thessalonica had knowledge (ἐγνώσαν, egnōsan)—The hostile Jewish opposition did not remain localized but actively pursued Paul's ministry. The verb indicates they "came to know" or "learned" that Paul was preaching in Berea, approximately 50 miles southwest of Thessalonica. This demonstrates the intensity of their opposition to the gospel.

They came thither also, and stirred up the people (ἐταράσσοντες, etarassontes)—The verb means "to agitate, trouble, stir into commotion." The Thessalonian Jews left their own city to sabotage Paul's work in Berea, revealing religious persecution's relentless nature. Unlike Thessalonica (17:5) where they incited the marketplace mob, here they targeted the general populace. This forced Paul's departure (v.14) but reveals how the noble Bereans (v.11) were vulnerable to outside agitators despite their initial receptivity to Scripture.

Historical Context

This occurred around AD 50-51 during Paul's second missionary journey. Thessalonica and Berea were both Macedonian cities along the Via Egnatia, Rome's major east-west highway. The Thessalonian synagogue had previously expelled Paul after only three weeks (17:2), and their pursuit to Berea shows how the early church faced organized opposition that crossed city boundaries.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does persistent opposition to the gospel in one location sometimes follow faithful ministers to new fields, and how should this shape expectations for ministry?
2. What does the contrast between the noble Bereans (17:11) and the agitated crowds (17:13) reveal about the difference between genuine truth-seeking and mob mentality?

Interlinear Text

Ὡς δὲ ἔγνωσαν οἱ ἀπὸ τῆς Θεσσαλονίκης Ἰουδαῖοι
when **But** **had knowledge** G3588 **of** G3588 **Thessalonica** **the Jews**
G5613 G1161 G1097 G575 G2332 G2453

ὅτι καὶ ἐν τῇ Βεροίᾳ κατηγγέλη ὑπὸ τοῦ Παύλου ὁ
that G2532 **at** G3588 **Berea** **was preached** **of** G3588 **Paul** G3588
G3754 G1722 G960 G2605 G5259 G3972

λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἦλθον κάκει σαλεύοντες τοὺς
the word G3588 **of God** **they came** **thither also** **and stirred up** G3588
G3056 G2316 G2064 G2546 G4531

ὄχλους
the people
G3793