

Acts 17:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Analysis

He hath appointed a day (καθότι ἔστησεν ἡμέραν)—The perfect tense indicates God's fixed, immutable decree. History moves toward this predetermined moment of universal judgment. **In the which he will judge the world in righteousness** (ἐν ᾧ μέλλει κρίνειν τὴν οἰκουμένην ἐν δικαιοσύνῃ)—judgment is future certainty ('will judge'), global in scope ('the world'), and morally perfect ('in righteousness').

By that man whom he hath ordained (ἐν ἀνδρὶ ὃ ὥρισεν)—Jesus, the God-man, is appointed Judge (John 5:22, 27). Paul tactfully calls Him 'that man' to Athenian ears unfamiliar with Jewish Messianism, yet asserts His divine appointment. The climactic proof: **whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead** (πίστιν παρασχὼν πᾶσιν ἀναστήσας αὐτὸν ἐκ νεκρῶν). Resurrection is God's vindication of Jesus' claims, guarantee of coming judgment, and public evidence ('assurance to all men') demanding universal response.

Historical Context

Greek philosophy debated immortality but mocked bodily resurrection (v. 32). Paul's Mars Hill sermon climaxes not with philosophical argument but historical fact: God raised Jesus, proving He will judge through Him. This fusion of Jewish

eschatology and universal accountability challenged both pagan fatalism and philosophical speculation with concrete, testable historical claims.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does certainty of future judgment through Christ affect your daily choices and priorities?
2. What comfort and warning does Christ's role as Judge (not an impersonal force) provide to believers?

Interlinear Text

διότι	ἔστησεν	ἡμέραν	ἐν	ῷ	μέλλει	κρίνειν
Because	he hath appointed	a day	by	the which	he will	judge
G1360	G2476	G2250	G1722	G3739	G3195	G2919
τὴν	οἰκουμένην	ἐν	δικαιοσύνῃ	ἐν	ἀνδρὶ	ῷ
G3588	the world	by	righteousness	by	that man	the which
	G3625	G1722	G1343	G1722	G435	G3739
ὤρισεν	πίστιν	παρασχὼν	πᾶσιν			
he hath ordained	assurance	whereof he hath given	unto all			
G3724	G4102	G3930	G3956			
ἀναστήσας	αὐτὸν	ἐκ	νεκρῶν			
men in that he hath raised	him	from	the dead			
G450	G846	G1537	G3498			

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 3:7 (Judgment): But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

Psalms 98:9 (Righteousness): Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (Judgment): For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Psalms 9:8 (Righteousness): And he shall judge the world in righteousness, he shall minister judgment to the people in uprightness.

Psalms 96:13 (Righteousness): Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Romans 2:5 (Righteousness): But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

Romans 2:16 (Judgment): In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

1 Corinthians 4:5 (Judgment): Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

Acts 4:10 (Resurrection): Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Matthew 10:15 (Judgment): Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.