

Acts 17:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

Analysis

The mixed response to resurrection - some mocked, others wanted to hear more, some believed - represents typical responses to the gospel. Resurrection remains the dividing line between acceptance and rejection of Christianity. The 'mocking' reveals how central Christian claims appear foolish to worldly wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18), yet this 'foolishness' saves those who believe.

Historical Context

Greek philosophers generally accepted soul immortality but rejected bodily resurrection. Paul's message that God would judge the world through a man whom He raised challenged both Jewish and Greek expectations.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do you remain faithful in proclamation despite knowing some will mock the gospel's core claims?

2. What does the varied response teach about sowing seed broadly while trusting God for results?

Interlinear Text

Ἀκουσόμεθά	δὲ	ἀνάστασιν	νεκρῶν	οἱ	μὲν	ἐχλεύαζον
We will hear	And	of the resurrection	of the dead	G3588	some	mocked
G191	G1161	G386	G3498		G3303	G5512
οἱ	δὲ	εἶπον,	Ἀκουσόμεθά	σου	πάλιν	περὶ τούτου
G3588	And	others said	We will hear	thee	again	of
	G1161	G2036	G191	G4675	G3825	G4012
						G5127

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:18 (Resurrection): Then certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks, encountered him. And some said, What will this babbler say? other some, He seemeth to be a setter forth of strange gods: because he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection.

Acts 2:13 (Parallel theme): Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Acts 24:25 (Parallel theme): And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.

Acts 26:8 (Resurrection): Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?

Acts 25:19 (Parallel theme): But had certain questions against him of their own superstition, and of one Jesus, which was dead, whom Paul affirmed to be alive.

Acts 17:31 (Resurrection): 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.

1 Corinthians 4:10 (Parallel theme): We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (Parallel theme): (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Luke 14:18 (Parallel theme): And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.

2 Chronicles 36:16 (Parallel theme): But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy.