

Acts 17:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Analysis

And some of them believed (ἐπείσθησαν, epeisthēsan)—the verb means "were persuaded," indicating intellectual conviction through Paul's reasoning from Scripture. The response was mixed: "some" believed while others rejected, a pattern throughout Acts.

Consorted with (προσεκληρώθησαν, proseklērōthēsan)—literally "were allotted to" or "joined by lot," suggesting divine election and permanent attachment to the apostolic mission. **Devout Greeks** (σεβομένων Ἑλλήνων, sebomenōn Hellēnōn)—God-fearers, Gentiles who worshiped Yahweh but hadn't fully converted to Judaism. This group proved remarkably receptive to the gospel. **Chief women** (γυναικῶν τῶν πρώτων, gynaikōn tōn prōtōn)—prominent, high-status women, showing Christianity's appeal across social classes and Luke's emphasis on women in Acts.

Historical Context

This occurred in Thessalonica around AD 50 during Paul's second missionary journey. Thessalonica was Macedonia's capital with a significant Jewish population and synagogue. The "devout Greeks" were God-fearers attracted to Jewish monotheism—a bridge demographic that often formed the nucleus of early Gentile churches. The prominence of women converts reflects Macedonian culture's relatively high status for women compared to other regions.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does the mixed response ("some believed") teach about evangelism expectations and the sovereignty of God in conversion?
2. How does the inclusion of God-fearers, prominent women, and various social classes demonstrate the universal scope of the gospel?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	τινες	ἐξ	αὐτῶν	ἐπίσθησαν	καὶ	προσεκληρώθησαν		
And	some	of	them	believed	And	consorted		
G2532	G5100	G1537	G846	G3982	G2532	G4345		
τῷ	Παύλῳ	καὶ	τῷ	Σιλᾷ	τῶν	τε	σεβομένων	Ἑλλήνων
G3588	with Paul	And	G3588	Silas	G3588	and	of the devout	Greeks
	G3972	G2532		G4609		G5037	G4576	G1672
πολὺ	πλῆθος	γυναικῶν	τε	τῶν	πρώτων	οὐκ	ὀλίγαι	
a great	multitude	women	and	G3588	of the chief	not	a few	
G4183	G4128	G1135	G5037		G4413	G3756	G3641	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:12 (Faith): Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

Acts 14:4 (Parallel theme): But the multitude of the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles.

Acts 13:50 (References Paul): But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts.

Acts 15:22 (References Paul): Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

Acts 13:43 (References Paul): Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God.

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