

Acts 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Analysis

The accusation that Paul and Silas 'turned the world upside down' inadvertently testified to the gospel's revolutionary power. The phrase captures Christianity's cultural disruption—its message challenged social, political, and religious status quo. The enemies' recognition of global impact ('world') shows the movement's rapid spread.

Historical Context

In Thessalonica (AD 50), Jewish opposition accused Christians of treason against Caesar by proclaiming 'another king, one Jesus.' This charge threatened Roman peace and turned city rulers against believers, though it acknowledged Christianity's political implications.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should the gospel 'turn upside down' contemporary cultural assumptions and values?
2. What does enemy recognition of Christianity's revolutionary nature teach about faithful witness?

Interlinear Text

μὴ	εὐρόντες	δὲ	αὐτοὺς	ἔσυρον	τὸν	Ἰάσονα	καὶ
not	when they found	And	them	they drew	G3588	Jason	also
G3361	G2147	G1161	G846	G4951		G2394	G2532
τινας	ἀδελφοὺς	ἐπὶ	τοὺς	πολιτάρχας	βοῶντες	ὅτι	Οἱ
certain	brethren	unto	G3588	the rulers of the city	crying	G3754	G3588
G5100	G80	G1909		G4173	G994		
τὴν	οἰκουμένην	ἀναστατώσαντες	οὗτοι	καὶ	ἐνθάδε		
G3588	the world	that have turned	These	also	hither		
	G3625	G387	G3778	G2532	G1759		
πάρεισιν							
are come							
G3918							

Additional Cross-References

Acts 24:5 (Parallel theme): For we have found this man a pestilent fellow, and a mover of sedition among all the Jews throughout the world, and a ringleader of the sect of the Nazarenes:

Acts 28:22 (Parallel theme): But we desire to hear of thee what thou thinkest: for as concerning this sect, we know that every where it is spoken against.

Luke 23:5 (Parallel theme): And they were the more fierce, saying, He stirreth up the people, teaching throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee to this place.

Matthew 24:14 (Parallel theme): And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

Amos 7:10 (Parallel theme): Then Amaziah the priest of Beth-el sent to Jeroboam king of Israel, saying, Amos hath conspired against thee in the midst of the house of Israel: the land is not able to bear all his words.

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