

Acts 18:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But bade them farewell, saying, I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem: but I will return again unto you, if God will. And he sailed from Ephesus.

Analysis

'I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem' - Paul's Jerusalem orientation showed continued Jewish identity. 'I will return again unto you, if God will' expressed submission to providence. Plans were made contingent on divine permission.

Historical Context

Which feast Paul intended to keep is uncertain - possibly Passover or Pentecost. His Jerusalem visits maintained connection with the mother church.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How did Paul balance Gentile mission with Jewish heritage?
2. What does 'if God will' teach about making plans?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ἀπετάξατο αὐτοῖς, εἰπών Δεῖ με πάντας τὴν
But bade them saying must I by all means G3588
G235 G657 G846 G2036 G1163 G3165 G3843

ἐορτὴν τὴν ἐρχομενην ποιῆσαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα, Πάλιν
this feast that cometh keep in Jerusalem again
G1859 G2064 G4160 G1519 G2414 G3825

δὲ ἀνακάμψω πρὸς ὑμᾶς τοῦ θεοῦ θέλοντος καὶ
but I will return unto you G3588 if God will And
G1161 G344 G4314 G5209 G2316 G2309 G2532

ἀνήχθη ἀπὸ τῆς Ἐφέσου
he sailed from Ephesus
G321 G3588 G575 G2181

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 4:19 (Parallel theme): But I will come to you shortly, if the Lord will, and will know, not the speech of them which are puffed up, but the power.

James 4:15 (Parallel theme): For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

Hebrews 6:3 (References God): And this will we do, if God permit.

Acts 20:16 (References Jerusalem): For Paul had determined to sail by Ephesus, because he would not spend the time in Asia: for he hasted, if it were possible for him, to be at Jerusalem the day of Pentecost.

Romans 15:32 (References God): That I may come unto you with joy by the will of God, and may with you be refreshed.

Romans 1:10 (References God): Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey by the will of God to come unto you.