

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,	εἰπὼν	Δεῖ	με	πάντως	τὴν
But	bade	them	saying	must	I	by all means	G3588
G235	G657	G846	G2036	G1163	G3165	G3843	
ἐορτὴν	τὴν	ἐρχομένην	ποιῆσαι	εἰς	Ἱεροσόλυμα,	Πάλιν	
this feast	G3588	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	G3588	Ephesus				
G321	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.