

Acts 19:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And this was known to all the Jews and Greeks also dwelling at Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.

Analysis

This was known to all... and fear fell on them all—The exorcism failure of Sceva's sons (vv. 13-16) created holy fear ($\phi\betao\zeta$) throughout Ephesus, Greek and Jewish populations alike. **The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified** ($\acute{e}mugyal\acute{u}n\acute{e}t\acute{o}\ t\acute{o}\ \acute{o}noma\ t\acute{o}\n\acute{u}\ K\acute{u}r\acute{u}\ 'In\acute{u}so\acute{u}$)—the verb suggests Jesus' name was exalted, honored, treated as supremely powerful. This event demonstrated that Jesus' authority cannot be counterfeited or manipulated; His name works only through genuine relationship. The failed exorcism paradoxically advanced the gospel more than successful miracles might have, proving Christ's uniqueness against magical pretension.

Historical Context

Ephesus was notorious for magical practices—'Ephesian letters' (magical formulas) were famous throughout the ancient world. The sons of Sceva attempted to use Jesus' name as a magical incantation, but the demon's violent response exposed their fraudulence, shocking the syncretistic religious culture.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How might attempts to use Jesus' name without genuine relationship to Him appear in contemporary Christianity?
2. What does the 'fear' that fell on Ephesus teach about healthy reverence for God's power versus casual familiarity?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτο δὲ ἐγένετο γνωστὸν πάντας Ἰουδαίοις τε καὶ
this And was known all the Jews and also
G5124 G1161 G1096 G1110 G3956 G2453 G5037 G2532

Ἐλλησιν τοῖς κατοικοῦσιν τὴν Ἐφεσον καὶ ἐπέπεσεν
Greeks dwelling at Ephesus also fell
G1672 G2730 G3588 G2181 G2532 G1968

φόβος ἐπὶ πάντας αὐτούς καὶ ἐμεγαλύνετο τὸ ὄνομα
fear on all them also was magnified the name
G5401 G1909 G3956 G846 G2532 G3170 G3588 G3686

τοῦ κυρίου Ἰησοῦ
of the Lord Jesus
G3588 G2962 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:5 (Parallel theme): And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 5:11 (Parallel theme): And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

2 Thessalonians 1:12 (References Jesus): That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

