

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 (φόβος) throughout Ephesus, Greek and Jewish populations alike. **The name of the Lord Jesus was magnified** (ἐμεγαλύνετο τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ)—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
Ἕλλησιν	τοῖς	κατοικοῦσιν	τὴν	Ἔφεσον	καὶ	ἐπέπεσεν	
Greeks		dwelling		at Ephesus	also	fell	
G1672	G3588	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					
G3588	of the Lord	Jesus					
	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.

