

Acts 2:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Analysis

The response - 'they that gladly received his word were baptized' - indicates true conversion requires willing reception, not coercion. The Greek 'apodexamenoi' (gladly received) suggests enthusiastic embrace, not reluctant assent. 'About three thousand souls' added in one day demonstrates Spirit's sovereign power to produce mass conversions while maintaining individual agency. This validates apostolic preaching's supernatural effectiveness.

Historical Context

Three thousand converts from one sermon contrasts sharply with Moses' golden calf judgment - three thousand died (Exodus 32:28). Pentecost reverses Sinai's death sentence through gospel power. The number also fulfills Ezekiel's vision of dead bones receiving life (Ezekiel 37), Israel's restoration beginning.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does three thousand conversions in one day teach about God's power in evangelism?
2. How does Pentecost's harvest contrast with Sinai's judgment, revealing law versus gospel?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	μὲν	οὖν	ἀσμένως	ἀποδεξάμενοι	τὸν	λόγον	αὐτοῦ
G3588	Then	G3767	they that gladly	received	G3588	word	his
	G3303		G780	G588		G3056	G846
ἐβαπτίσθησαν	καὶ	προσετέθησαν	τῇ	ἡμέρᾳ	ἐκείνῃ	ψυχὰς	
were baptized	and	there were added	G3588	day	the same	souls	
G907	G2532	G4369		G2250	G1565	G5590	
ὥσπερ	τρισχίλια						
unto them about	three thousand						
G5616	G5153						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 4:4 (Word): Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Acts 2:47 (Parallel theme): Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Acts 2:37 (Parallel theme): Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

John 14:12 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Acts 13:48 (Word): And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Psalms 110:3 (Parallel theme): Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth.

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