

Acts 21:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come unto us, he took Paul's girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.

Analysis

Agabus's prophetic sign-act, binding his own hands and feet with Paul's belt, echoed Old Testament prophetic symbolism (compare Jeremiah 13:1-11, Ezekiel 4). The detailed prophecy - 'the Jews at Jerusalem shall bind the man' - proved remarkably accurate, though the Romans actually performed the arrest. This demonstrates how prophetic revelation conveys essential truth while details may unfold differently than expected.

Historical Context

Symbolic prophetic acts were common in Hebrew tradition. The reference to 'the Gentiles' accurately predicted Paul's Roman custody, fulfilling Jesus's prophecy that Paul would testify before Gentiles and kings (Acts 9:15).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can you discern the essential message in prophetic warnings versus circumstantial details?
2. What does Paul's response teach about continuing God's mission despite clear warnings of suffering?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐλθὼν πρὸς ἡμᾶς καὶ ἄρας τὴν ζώνη τοῦ
And when he was come unto us And he took G3588 girdle G3588
G2532 G2064 G4314 G2248 G2532 G142 G2223

Παύλου δήσουσιν τε αὐτοῦ τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τοὺς
Paul's bind and G3588 hands And G3588
G3972 G1210 G5037 G846 G3588 G5495 G2532

πόδας εἶπεν Τάδε λέγει τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄγιον Τὸν
feet and said Thus saith G3588 Ghost G3588 the Holy G3588
G4228 G2036 G3592 G3004 G4151 G40

ἄνδρα οὗ ἔστιν ἡ ζώνη αὗτη οὕτως δήσουσιν ἐν
the man that owneth G3588 girdle this So bind at
G435 G3739 G2076 G2223 G3778 G3779 G1210 G1722

Ἰερουσαλήμ οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι καὶ παραδώσουσιν εἰς
Jerusalem G3588 the Jews And shall deliver him into
G2419 G2453 G2532 G3860 G1519

χεῖρας ἐθνῶν
hands of the Gentiles
G5495 G1484

Additional Cross-References

Acts 21:33 (Parallel theme): Then the chief captain came near, and took him, and commanded him to be bound with two chains; and demanded who he was, and what he had done.

Acts 20:23 (Holy): Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.

1 Kings 22:11 (Parallel theme): And Zedekiah the son of Chenaanah made him horns of iron: and he said, Thus saith the LORD, With these shalt thou push the Syrians, until thou have consumed them.

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