

Acts 21:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the day following Paul went in with us unto James; and all the elders were present.

Analysis

Paul's formal visit to James and the elders represents apostolic accountability and church unity. His detailed report of 'what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry' emphasized divine initiative rather than personal achievement. The focus on God's work through Paul reflected proper humility and gave glory to the true source of missionary success.

Historical Context

James, the Lord's brother (Galatians 1:19), led the Jerusalem church and would later write the epistle bearing his name. This meeting represented the highest level of early church leadership consulting together.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does your testimony emphasize God's work rather than personal accomplishments?

2. What role should accountability to church leadership play in missionary and ministry work?

Interlinear Text

τῇ δὲ ἡμέραν εἰσῆλθεν ὁ Παῦλος σὺν ἡμῖν πρὸς
G3588 And the day following went in G3588 Paul with us unto
G1161 G1966 G1524 G3972 G4862 G2254 G4314

Ἰάκωβον πάντες τε παρεγένοντο οἱ πρεσβύτεροι
James all and were present G3588 the elders
G2385 G3956 G5037 G3854 G3588 G4245

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:13 (Parallel theme): And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

Acts 11:30 (Parallel theme): Which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul.

Galatians 1:19 (Parallel theme): But other of the apostles saw I none, save James the Lord's brother.

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