

Acts 21:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

Analysis

He declared particularly (ἐξηγέομαι, *exēgéomai*)—Paul gave a detailed, systematic report, the same Greek word used of explaining Scripture. Crucially, he reported **what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry**—attributing all success to divine agency, not apostolic technique. The phrase 'by his ministry' (διὰ τῆς διακονίας αὐτοῦ, *dià tēs diakonías autoû*) positions Paul as God's servant-instrument, not the source. This exemplifies biblical leadership that deflects glory to God while faithfully reporting His works. Paul's focus on Gentile conversions prepared the Jerusalem leadership to understand God's larger purposes.

Historical Context

This formal report occurred before James and the Jerusalem elders around AD 57, roughly 25 years after the church's founding. Paul's third missionary journey had established numerous churches across Asia Minor and Greece, representing massive Gentile ingathering that challenged traditional Jewish Christian assumptions.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How do you report ministry success in ways that highlight God's work rather than personal achievement?
2. What does Paul's detailed accounting to church leadership teach about apostolic accountability and ecclesial unity?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀσπασάμενος αὐτοῦ ἐξηγεῖτο καθ' ἐν ἔκαστον
And when he had saluted his he declared particularly G1520 G1538
G2532 G782 G846 G1834 G2596

ὧν ἐποίησεν ὁ θεὸς ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν διὰ τῆς
what things had wrought God among the Gentiles by G3588 G1484 G1223
G3739 G4160 G2316 G1722

διακονίας αὐτοῦ

ministry his
G1248 G846

Additional Cross-References

Acts 14:27 (References God): And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.

Acts 1:17 (Parallel theme): For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.