

Acts 22:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

Analysis

The God of our fathers hath chosen thee (Ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν προεχειρίσατό σε)—The verb 'chosen' (προεχειρίσατο) means 'appointed beforehand,' emphasizing God's sovereign election. Connecting to **the God of our fathers** shows Christianity's continuity with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The threefold purpose:

1. **know his will** (γινῶναι τὸ θέλημα)—intimate knowledge, not mere information
2. **see that Just One** (ἰδεῖν τὸν δίκαιον)—witness the resurrected Christ
3. **hear the voice of his mouth** (ἀκοῦσαι φωνῆς)—receive direct revelation.

Paul's apostleship rests on seeing and hearing the risen Jesus, meeting the qualification of Acts 1:21-22.

Historical Context

Ananias spoke these words in Damascus circa AD 34-35. The title 'the Just One' (ὁ δίκαιος) was a messianic designation used by Stephen in his martyrdom speech (Acts 7:52), whom Paul had helped execute. This creates profound irony—Paul now serves the one whose followers he persecuted.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign 'choosing' in Paul's conversion challenge modern emphasis on human decision-making?
2. What does it mean to 'know God's will' beyond intellectual knowledge?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	εἶπεν	Ὁ	θεὸς	τῶν	πατέρων	ἡμῶν
G3588	And	he said	G3588	The God	G3588	fathers	of our
	G1161	G2036		G2316		G3962	G2257
προεχειρίσατό	σε	γνῶναι	τὸ	θέλημα	αὐτοῦ		
hath chosen	thee	that thou shouldest know	G3588	will	his		
G4400	G4571	G1097		G2307	G846		
καὶ	ἰδεῖν	τὸν	δίκαιον	καὶ	ἀκοῦσαι	φωνὴν	ἐκ τοῦ
and	see	G3588	that Just One	and	shouldest hear	the voice	of
G2532	G1492		G1342	G2532	G191	G5456	G1537
στόματος	αὐτοῦ						
mouth	his						
G4750	G846						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:16 (Parallel theme): But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

1 Corinthians 9:1 (Parallel theme): Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? are not ye my work in the Lord?

1 Corinthians 15:8 (Parallel theme): And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.

Galatians 1:12 (Parallel theme): For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Acts 9:17 (Parallel theme): And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 7:52 (Righteousness): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Acts 9:15 (Parallel theme): But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

1 John 2:1 (Righteousness): My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: