

Acts 22:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it came to pass, that, when I was come again to Jerusalem, even while I prayed in the temple, I was in a trance;

Analysis

I was in a trance (ἐγενόμην ἐν ἔκστασει)—The Greek 'ekstasis' (ἔκστασις) means ecstasy, displacement of normal consciousness for divine revelation. This vision occurred during prayer **in the temple**, showing Paul maintained Jewish worship practices even after conversion. The temple setting is significant—God redirects Paul away from Jerusalem, the center of Judaism, toward Gentile mission. The 'trance' authenticates this radical calling through supernatural means, not human reasoning. Peter experienced similar 'ekstasis' receiving the vision about Gentile inclusion (Acts 10:10), establishing a pattern for divine direction in the early church.

Historical Context

This vision happened during Paul's first post-conversion visit to Jerusalem, about three years after Damascus (Galatians 1:18, circa AD 37-38). Paul had returned to testify to fellow Jews, but Jesus warned him to leave. Acts 9:26-30 describes the danger from both Jews and Hellenists.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. Why would Jesus give Paul this vision in the temple rather than elsewhere?
2. How do you distinguish between God's clear calling and your own preferences or plans?

Interlinear Text

γενέσθαι	δέ	μοι	ὑποστρέψαντι	εἰς	Ἱερουσαλήμ		
it came to pass	And	that when I	was come again	to	Jerusalem		
G1096	G1161	G3427	G5290	G1519	G2419		
καὶ	προσευχομένου	μου	ἐν	τῷ	ἱερῷ	γενέσθαι	με
even	prayed	while I	in	G3588	the temple	it came to pass	I
G2532	G4336	G3450	G1722		G2411	G1096	G3165
ἐν	ἐκστάσει						
in	a trance						
G1722	G1611						

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