

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 (έγενόμην ἐν ἐκστάσει)—The Greek 'ekstasis' (ἐκστασις) 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 Ἱερουσαλὴμ
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 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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