

Acts 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saw him saying unto me, Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem: for they will not receive thy testimony concerning me.

Analysis

Make haste, and get thee quickly out of Jerusalem—The double urgency (σπεῦσον καὶ ἔξελθε ἐν τάχει) emphasizes immediate obedience. Jesus explains: **they will not receive thy testimony** (οὐ παραδέξονται σου τὴν μαρτυρίαν). The verb 'paradechomai' (receive, accept) appears in aorist future—their rejection is certain. Paul's natural inclination would be Jerusalem ministry—he knew Judaism, had credentials, and wanted to undo his persecution. But God's strategy differed. Effective ministry requires divine placement, not human logic. The phrase **concerning me** (περὶ ἐμοῦ) shows testimony's focus must be Christ, not personal experience alone.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's rejection fulfilled Jesus' warning. Jews from Asia recognized Paul in the temple years later (Acts 21:27), triggering the riot that led to this speech. Paul's greatest effectiveness came among Gentiles, as Jesus predicted, though he always attempted synagogue ministry first (Acts 13:5, 14:1).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. When have you struggled to accept God's direction because it conflicted with what seemed most logical?
2. How does Jesus' warning about Jerusalem challenge assumptions about where we 'should' serve?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἰδεῖν	αὐτὸν	λέγοντά	μοι	Σπεῦσον	καὶ	ἔξελθε	ἐν
And	saw	him	saying	unto me	Make haste	And	get thee	G1722
G2532	G1492	G846	G3004	G3427	G4692	G2532	G1831	
τάχει	ἐξ	Ἰερουσαλήμ	διότι	οὐ	παραδέξονται	σου	τὴν	
quickly	out of	Jerusalem	for	not	receive	thy	G3588	
G5034	G1537	G2419	G1360	G3756	G3858	G4675		
μαρτυρίαν	περὶ	ἐμοῦ						
testimony	concerning	me						
G3141	G4012	G1700						

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 10:14 (Parallel theme): And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet.

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Luke 21:21 (Parallel theme): Then let them which are in Judaea flee to the mountains; and let them which are in the midst of it depart out; and let not them that are in the countries enter thereinto.