

Acts 22:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto me, Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles.

Analysis

Jesus's direct command - 'Depart: for I will send thee far hence unto the Gentiles' - defined Paul's apostolic mission. The 'far hence' indicated both geographical distance and cultural gulf between Judaism and Gentile nations. This divine sending superseded Paul's natural preference to witness to fellow Jews, showing how God's purposes often redirect our initial inclinations toward His broader plans.

Historical Context

This Damascus road vision (around AD 35) set Paul's missionary trajectory for the next three decades. His specific commissioning to Gentiles complemented Peter's primary ministry to Jews (Galatians 2:7-8), showing how God distributes ministry assignments.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How has God redirected your ministry preferences toward His specific calling for your life?
2. What does Paul's Gentile mission teach about cross-cultural gospel witness and leaving your comfort zone?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	εἶπεν	πρός	με	Πορεύον	ὅτι	ἐγὼ	εἰς	ξθνη
And	he said	unto	me	Depart	for	I	unto	the Gentiles
G2532	G2036	G4314	G3165	G4198	G3754	G1473	G1519	G1484

μακρὰν	ἐξαποστελῶ	σε
far hence	will send	thee
G3112	G1821	G4571

Additional Cross-References

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:

Romans 15:16 (Parallel theme): That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

1 Timothy 2:7 (Parallel theme): Whereunto I am ordained a preacher, and an apostle, (I speak the truth in Christ, and lie not;) a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and verity.

Romans 11:13 (Parallel theme): For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: