

Acts 22:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

Analysis

They that were with me saw indeed the light (τὸ μὲν φῶς ἐθεάσαντο)—Paul's companions witnessed objective phenomena: supernatural brightness at noon. This wasn't subjective hallucination but shared sensory experience verifying the event's reality. **But they heard not the voice** (τὴν δὲ φωνὴν οὐκ ἤκουσαν)—Apparent contradiction with Acts 9:7 ('hearing a voice') resolves via Greek grammar: they heard sound (φωνή as noise, 9:7) but didn't understand the articulate speech (φωνή as intelligible message, 22:9).

God gave Paul exclusive understanding of Christ's words while making the supernatural event undeniable to witnesses. This parallels the Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5) where the Father's voice addressed Peter, James, and John specifically. Divine revelation requires both external validation (the light all saw) and internal illumination (the message Paul alone comprehended).

Historical Context

The multiple travelers to Damascus (likely temple guards or synagogue officials) served as unwitting witnesses that something supernatural occurred, even though they couldn't testify to the message's content. Their presence prevented later skeptics from dismissing Paul's conversion as private delusion.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the objective reality of the light (visible to all) combined with the subjective message (understood by Paul alone) illustrate both public and personal dimensions of faith?
2. When has God given you specific revelation or calling that others around you couldn't fully understand?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	σὺν	ἐμοὶ	ὄντες	τὸ	μὲν	φῶς	ἐθεάσαντο
G3588	And	with	me	they that were	G3588	indeed	the light	saw
G1161	G4862	G1698		G5607		G3303	G5457	G2300

καὶ	ἔμφοβοι	έγένοντο·	τὴν	δὲ	φωνὴν	οὐκ	ήκουσαν	τοῦ
and	afraid	were	G3588	And	the voice	not	they heard	G3588
G2532	G1719	G1096		G1161	G5456	G3756	G191	

λαλοῦντός	μοι
of him that spake	to me
G2980	G3427

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:7 (Parallel theme): And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

Daniel 10:7 (Parallel theme): And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

Acts 26:13 (Light): At midday, O king, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

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