

Acts 23:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they came to the chief priests and elders, and said, We have bound ourselves under a great curse, that we will eat nothing until we have slain Paul.

Analysis

The conspirators sought the chief priests' and elders' cooperation, revealing corruption at the highest levels of Jewish leadership. These religious authorities were willing to enable murder through deception, showing how institutional religion can become utterly corrupt when it rejects divine truth. Their participation in assassination plans while maintaining religious appearance epitomizes hypocrisy.

Historical Context

The same Sanhedrin leadership that condemned Jesus now conspired to murder His apostle. This continuity of opposition demonstrates the hardening that comes from persistently rejecting revealed truth.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How can religious institutions maintain outward respectability while engaging in profound moral corruption?
2. What does this teach about the danger of trusting religious authority that has rejected Christ?

Interlinear Text

οἵτινες προσελθόντες τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσιν καὶ τοῖς

And they came to the chief priests and G3588 G3588

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the chief priests

and

G3588

πρεσβυτέροις εἰπον, Αναθέματι ἀνεθεματίσαμεν

elders and said under a great curse We have bound

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ἐσαυτοὺς μηδενὸς γεύσασθαι ἔως οὐ ἀποκτείνωμεν τὸν

ourselves nothing that we will eat we have slain G3588

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we have slain

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Παῦλον

Paul

G3972

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:12 (Curse): And when it was day, certain of the Jews banded together, and bound themselves under a curse, saying that they would neither eat nor drink till they had killed Paul.

Jeremiah 8:12 (Parallel theme): Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

