

Acts 28:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves.

Analysis

And when he had said these words, the Jews departed, and had great reasoning among themselves—This verse appears in the Textus Receptus but is absent from most early manuscripts (Alexandrian text type), leading many modern translations to omit it or bracket it. The KJV includes it: after Paul quotes Isaiah 6:9-10 about Israel's hardness (28:26-27), the Jewish community exits with πολλὴν συζήτησιν (pollēn syzētēsin, 'much debate, discussion') ἐν ἑαυτοῖς (en heautois, 'among themselves').

If original, the verse emphasizes division within the Jewish community over Paul's message—some convicted, others hardened. It parallels earlier scenes where Paul's preaching split Jewish audiences (13:45, 14:4, 17:4-5, 18:6). The **great reasoning** suggests intense theological debate about whether Jesus is Messiah and whether judgment has come upon Israel for rejecting Him. Even if textually uncertain, the verse reflects the historical reality: Paul's message created crisis within Judaism, forcing decision about Jesus's identity.

Historical Context

Paul's two-year Roman house arrest (c. AD 60-62) allowed him to receive visitors freely. Jewish leaders in Rome, unfamiliar with Paul personally, came to hear him (28:17-22). Paul's message that the Messiah had come, been rejected by Jewish leaders, and offered salvation to Gentiles, challenged core Jewish identity. The departure 'with great reasoning' reflects the painful division Christianity caused in

synagogues throughout the empire—families split, friendships broken, communities fractured over the question: Is Jesus the Messiah? This pattern continues; the gospel remains divisive (Matthew 10:34-36, Luke 12:51-53).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the 'great reasoning' among the Jews illustrate that the gospel forces decision—neutrality is impossible when confronted with Jesus's claims?
2. What does this verse teach about the cost of gospel proclamation—even necessary truth can fracture communities and relationships?
3. In what ways have you experienced division or debate when sharing the gospel, and how do you balance truth-telling with maintaining relationships?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ταῦτα αὐτοῦ εἰπόντος, ἀπῆλθον οἱ Ἰουδαῖοι,
And these words when he had said departed the Jews
G2532 G5023 G846 G2036 G565 G3588 G2453

πολλὴν ἔχοντες ἐν ἑαυτοῖς συζήτησιν
great and had among themselves reasoning
G4183 G2192 G1722 G1438 G4803