

Acts 3:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

Analysis

The contrast intensifies: 'ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer.' Peter uses messianic titles ('Holy One,' 'Just One') to heighten the tragedy of rejecting Christ for Barabbas. The crowd's choice revealed distorted values preferring violence over righteousness.

Historical Context

Barabbas, a robber and insurrectionist (John 18:40, Mark 15:7), represented violent nationalism the crowd preferred over peaceful Messiah. This choice epitomized Israel's rejection of God's ways.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What 'Barabbases' do people choose over Christ today?
2. How does this passage reveal the irrationality of rejecting Christ?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς δὲ τὸν ἄγιον καὶ δίκαιον ἡρυγγασθε καὶ
ye But G3588 the Holy One and the Just denied and
G5210 G1161 G40 G2532 G1342 G720 G2532
ἡτήσασθε ἄνδρα φονέα χαρισθῆναι ὑμῖν
desired a murderer to be granted unto you
G154 G435 G5406 G5483 G5213

Additional Cross-References

Mark 1:24 (Holy): Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

Acts 7:52 (Righteousness): Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Acts 4:27 (Holy): For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

1 Peter 3:18 (Righteousness): For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

James 5:6 (Righteousness): Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

Acts 22:14 (Righteousness): And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know his will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of his mouth.

Zechariah 9:9 (Righteousness): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Revelation 3:7 (Holy): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Acts 2:27 (Holy): Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

1 John 2:1 (Righteousness): My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

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