

Acts 3:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.

Analysis

Peter shows pastoral wisdom: 'through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.' This doesn't excuse guilt but opens a door for repentance. Ignorance mitigates though doesn't eliminate responsibility. Peter offers hope - their sin, though great, is not beyond forgiveness.

Historical Context

Jesus' crucifixion prayer 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do' (Luke 23:34) underlies Peter's gracious assessment. Ignorance of Christ's true identity provided basis for appeal rather than hopeless condemnation.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does acknowledging ignorance open doors for grace without excusing sin?
2. What balance exists between confronting guilt and offering hope?

Interlinear Text

καὶ νῦν ἀδελφοί οἶδα ὅτι κατὰ ἄγνοιαν ἐπράξατε
And now brethren I wot that through ignorance ye did
G2532 G3568 G80 G1492 G3754 G2596 G52 G4238

ὥσπερ καὶ οἱ ἄρχοντες ὑμῶν·
it as And rulers your
G5618 G2532 G3588 G758 G5216

Additional Cross-References

Luke 23:34 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Acts 13:27 (Parallel theme): For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every sabbath day, they have fulfilled them in condemning him.

1 Corinthians 2:8 (Parallel theme): Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

John 16:3 (Parallel theme): And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me.

1 Timothy 1:13 (Parallel theme): Who was before a blasphemer, and a persecutor, and injurious: but I obtained mercy, because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.