

Acts 4:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

Analysis

The prayer quotes Psalm 2:1-2 - 'Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together' - applying David's royal psalm to Christ's rejection. The Greek 'phryssō' (rage) suggests snorting horses, emphasizing irrational fury. 'Imagine vain things' (Greek 'meletaō kena') means 'meditate on empty things' - futile schemes against omnipotent God. This prayer interprets persecution through Scripture, seeing God's sovereign purpose.

Historical Context

Psalm 2, a royal coronation psalm celebrating David's enthronement despite opposition, became messianic in interpretation. The early church read Israel's history as prophetic pattern for Christ's rejection and ultimate triumph. Praying Scripture shaped theological understanding of current events.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does praying Scripture train us to interpret present circumstances through redemptive history?
2. What comfort does the 'vain' (futile) nature of opposition to God's Anointed provide under persecution?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ	διὰ	στόματος	Δαβὶδ	τοῦ	παιδός	σου	εἰπὼν	Ἰνατί
Who	by	the mouth	David	Who	servant	of thy	hast said	Why
G3588	G1223	G4750	G1138	G3588	G3816	G4675	G2036	G2444
ἐφρύαξαν	ἔθνη	καὶ	λαοὶ	ἐμελέτησαν	κενὰ			
did	the heathen	and	the people	imagine	vain things			
G5433	G1484	G2532	G2992	G3191	G2756			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:16 (References David): Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.