

Acts 5:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, The prison truly found we shut with all safety, and the keepers standing without before the doors: but when we had opened, we found no man within.

Analysis

The council's bewilderment - 'Now when the high priest and the captain of the temple and the chief priests heard these things, they doubted of them whereunto this would grow' - shows confusion at God's evident approval. The Greek 'diēporoun' (doubted) means 'thoroughly perplexed,' unable to explain or predict outcomes. Their question 'whereunto this would grow' acknowledges momentum beyond their control. Gamaliel's later speech (v. 34-39) addresses this uncertainty with wise counsel.

Historical Context

The leadership's perplexity reveals God's confounding wisdom over human power. Previous attempts to suppress the movement - threats (Acts 4:17), arrests, imprisonment - all failed. The supernatural prison escape forced recognition that greater power opposed them. Their question anticipates Gamaliel's warning about fighting God (v. 39).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's evident blessing on gospel ministry confound and perplex opponents?
2. What does the authorities' uncertainty 'whereunto this would grow' teach about kingdom's unstoppable advance?

Interlinear Text

λέγοντες ὅτι Τὸ μὲν δεσμωτήριον εὗρομεν κεκλεισμένον

Saying	G3754	G3588	truly	The prison	found we	shut
G3004			G3303	G1201	G2147	G2808

ἐν πάσῃ ἀσφαλείᾳ καὶ τοὺς φύλακας ἔξω ἔστωτας

with	all	safety	and	G3588	the keepers	without	standing
G1722	G3956	G803	G2532		G5441	G1854	G2476

πρὸ τῶν θυρῶν ἀνοίξαντες δὲ ἔσω οὐδένα

before	G3588	the doors	when we had opened	but	within	no man
G4253		G2374	G455	G1161	G2080	G3762

εὗρομεν

found we

G2147

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 2:4 (Parallel theme): He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psalms 33:10 (Parallel theme): The LORD bringeth the counsel of the heathen to nought: he maketh the devices of the people of none effect.