

Acts 5:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Analysis

Peter's climactic declaration - 'The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree' - contrasts divine action ('God... raised') with human crime ('ye slew and hanged'). The Greek 'diacheirisamenoi' (slew) emphasizes violent death by human hands. 'Hanged on a tree' evokes Deuteronomy 21:23's curse, which Christ bore for our redemption (Galatians 3:13). This bold accusation demonstrates apostolic fearlessness - confronting murderers with their guilt while offering salvation. The resurrection vindicated Jesus and condemned His killers.

Historical Context

Crucifixion's shame in Jewish thought derived from Deuteronomy's curse on tree-hanging. Peter transforms this shame into glory - Christ bore covenant curse to redeem cursed sinners. The phrase 'God of our fathers' grounds argument in covenant history, showing Jesus as Abraham's promised seed. These same leaders heard similar accusation at Pentecost (Acts 2:23).

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's cursed death become the means of lifting our curse?
2. What boldness does it require to accuse powerful killers of their crime while offering forgiveness?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	θεὸς	τῶν	πατέρων	ἡμῶν	ἤγειρεν	Ἰησοῦν	ὃν
G3588	The God	G3588	fathers	of our	raised up	Jesus	whom
	G2316		G3962	G2257	G1453	G2424	G3739
ὁ	υμεῖς	διεχειρίσασθε	κρεμάσαντες	ἐπὶ	ξύλου·		
	ye	slew	and hanged	on	a tree		
	G5210	G1315	G2910	G1909	G3586		

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 3:13 (Parallel theme): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

1 Peter 2:24 (Parallel theme): Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Acts 10:39 (Parallel theme): And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: