

Acts 5:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto them, Ye men of Israel, take heed to yourselves what ye intend to do as touching these men.

Analysis

Gamaliel, a respected Pharisee and Paul's former teacher (Acts 22:3), urges caution with the Sanhedrin. His call to 'take heed' demonstrates wisdom in not acting rashly against what might be God's work. Though speaking as an unbeliever, God uses Gamaliel's counsel to protect the infant church, showing divine sovereignty in directing even pagan rulers' decisions for His purposes.

Historical Context

Gamaliel I was a leading Pharisee and grandson of Hillel, heading a major rabbinic school. His title 'Rabban' indicated supreme authority. His influence was such that the Mishnah states, 'When Rabban Gamaliel the Elder died, regard for the Torah ceased.' He represented the more moderate Pharisaic approach versus the Sadducees' harshness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does God use even unbelievers like Gamaliel to accomplish His purposes in protecting the church?
2. What can we learn from Gamaliel's cautious approach about not presuming to fight against what may be God's work?

Interlinear Text

εἰπέν τε πρὸς αὐτούς ἄνδρες Ἰσραὴλιται προσέχετε

said **And** **unto** **them** **Ye men** **of Israel** **take heed**
G2036 G5037 G4314 G846 G435 G2475 G4337

ἐαυτοῖς ἐπὶ τοῖς ἀνθρώποις τούτοις τί μέλλετε
to yourselves **as touching** **G3588** **men** **these** **what** **ye intend**
G1438 G1909 G444 G5125 G5101 G3195

πράσσειν

to do
G4238

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