

Acts 5:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in the days of the taxing, and drew away much people after him: he also perished; and all, even as many as obeyed him, were dispersed.

Analysis

Judas of Galilee led another failed revolt, reinforcing Gamaliel's pattern of doomed human movements. The phrase 'perished' and 'scattered' emphasizes the futility of opposing God's purposes through mere human strength. Gamaliel's examples aim to calm the Sanhedrin's violent intentions, showing how God can use even incomplete theological reasoning to protect His people and advance His kingdom.

Historical Context

Judas of Galilee led a tax revolt in 6 AD when Rome instituted direct taxation in Judea. This spawned the Zealot movement's violent resistance to Rome. His death and followers' scattering followed the pattern of failed messianic movements. The 'taxing' refers to the census under Quirinius mentioned in Luke 2:2.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do failed historical religious and political movements demonstrate the unique divine authority behind Christianity?
2. What does the pattern of scattered followers teach us about movements built on human charisma versus divine truth?

Interlinear Text

μετὰ τοῦτον ἀνέστη Ἰούδας ὁ Γαλιλαῖος ἐν ταῖς
After this man rose up Judas of Galilee in G3588
G3326 G5126 G450 G2455 G1057 G1722 G3588

ἡμέραις τῆς ἀπογραφῆς καὶ ἀπέστησεν λαὸν ἕκανὸν
the days of the taxing and drew away people much
G2250 G3588 G582 G2532 G868 G2992 G2425

ὁπίσω αὐτῷ κάκεινος ἀπώλετο καὶ πάντες ὅσοι
after him he also perished and all even as many as
G3694 G846 G2548 G622 G2532 G3956 G3745

ἐπείθοντο αὐτῷ διεσκορπίσθησαν
obeyed him were dispersed
G3982 G846 G1287