

Acts 6:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And all that sat in the council, looking stedfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.

Analysis

Stephen's angelic face during trial recalls Moses' radiant countenance after encountering God (Exodus 34:29), suggesting divine approval and presence. This supernatural sign to his accusers demonstrated God's vindication of his testimony. The Greek implies sustained transformation, not momentary change.

Historical Context

As Stephen stood before the Sanhedrin facing false accusations (Acts 6:11-14), this visible manifestation of God's glory silently rebuked his accusers. The same council that condemned Jesus now faced divine testimony through Stephen's transfigured appearance.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does God manifest His presence through believers facing unjust persecution?

2. What does Stephen's transformed appearance teach about God's sustaining grace in trials?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀτενίσαντες	εἰς	αὐτοῦ	ἅπαντες	οἱ	καθεζόμενοι	ἐν
And	looking stedfastly	on	him	all	<small>G3588</small>	that sat	in
<small>G2532</small>	<small>G816</small>	<small>G1519</small>	<small>G846</small>	<small>G537</small>		<small>G2516</small>	<small>G1722</small>
τῷ	συνεδρίῳ	εἶδον	τὸ	πρόσωπον	αὐτοῦ	ὥσει	
<small>G3588</small>	the council	saw	<small>G3588</small>	face	him	as it had been	
	<small>G4892</small>	<small>G1492</small>		<small>G4383</small>	<small>G846</small>	<small>G5616</small>	
πρόσωπον	ἁγγέλου						
face	of an angel						
<small>G4383</small>	<small>G32</small>						

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 8:1 (Parallel theme): Who is as the wise man? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

Matthew 13:43 (Kingdom): Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Matthew 17:2 (Parallel theme): And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (Parallel theme): But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.