

Acts 7:51

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Analysis

Stephen's accusation - 'Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears' - echoes prophetic denunciations (Exodus 32:9, Jeremiah 4:4). 'Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost' identifies their rejection as pattern, not exception. Their fathers' rebellion continues in them.

Historical Context

These Old Testament epithets condemned covenant unfaithfulness. Stephen applies them to the Sanhedrin, reversing their position - they, not he, violated the covenant.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does spiritual stubbornness manifest despite religious privilege?
2. What does 'uncircumcised in heart' reveal about external religion without internal transformation?

Interlinear Text

Σκληροτράχηλοι	καὶ	ἀπερίτμητοι	τῇ	καρδίᾳ	καὶ	τοῖς
Ye stiffnecked G4644	and G2532	uncircumcised G564	G3588	in heart G2588	and G2532	G3588
ὡσὶν	ὕμεῖς	ἀεὶ	τῷ	πνεύματι	τῷ	ἀγίῳ ἀντιπύπτετε
ears G3775	do ye G5210	always G104	G3588	Ghost G4151	G3588	the Holy G40
ὡς	οἱ	πατέρες	ὑμῶν	καὶ	ὕμεῖς	
as G5613	G3588	fathers G3962	your G5216	and G2532	do ye G5210	

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 10:16 (Parallel theme): Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.

Leviticus 26:41 (Parallel theme): And that I also have walked contrary unto them, and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if then their uncircumcised hearts be humbled, and they then accept of the punishment of their iniquity:

Jeremiah 4:4 (Parallel theme): Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Isaiah 63:10 (Holy): But they rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them.

Ephesians 4:30 (Holy): And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Exodus 32:9 (Parallel theme): And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people:

Exodus 33:5 (Parallel theme): For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a stiffnecked people: I will come up into the midst of thee

in a moment, and consume thee: therefore now put off thy ornaments from thee, that I may know what to do unto thee.

Exodus 33:3 (Parallel theme): Unto a land flowing with milk and honey: for I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a stiffnecked people: lest I consume thee in the way.

Philippians 3:3 (Spirit): For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Acts 6:10 (Spirit): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.