

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 and uncircumcised G3588 in heart and G3588
G4644 G2532 G564 G2588 G2532 G3588

ώσιν ὑμεῖς ἀεὶ τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀγίῳ ἀντιπίπτετε
ears do ye always G3588 Ghost G3588 the Holy do
G3775 G5210 G104 G4151 G40 G496

ώς οἱ πατέρες ὑμῶν καὶ ὑμεῖς
as G3588 fathers your and do ye
G5613 G3962 G5216 G2532 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.

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