

Acts 8:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.

Analysis

The Samaritans called Simon 'the great power of God' - an idolatrous attribution of divine glory to a mere man. This reveals humanity's readiness to worship anything but the true God. The phrase may suggest Simon claimed to be a divine emanation or the manifestation of God's power on earth. From a Reformed perspective, this demonstrates mankind's religious impulse misdirected toward false objects of worship. Only the gospel's power could break this deception and turn hearts to the true God.

Historical Context

Early church fathers (Justin Martyr, Irenaeus) wrote of Simon Magus as the father of Gnosticism and heresies. Whether this is the same Simon is debated, but his influence was significant enough that Luke records the Samaritans' exalted view of him.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. Why are humans so ready to worship created things rather than the Creator?
2. How do false teachers gain influence by claiming divine authority or power?
3. What protects believers from deception by those claiming divine status?

Interlinear Text

ῷ προσεῖχον πάντες ἀπὸ μικροῦ ἔως Μεγάλη
To whom gave heed they all from the least to the great
G3739 G4337 G3956 G575 G3398 G2193 G3173

λέγοντες Οὗτός ἐστιν ἡ δύναμις τοῦ θεοῦ ἡ
saying This man is G3588 power G1411 of God G3588
G3004 G3778 G2076 G3588 G2316 G3588

Μεγάλη

the great

G3173

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 31:34 (Parallel theme): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Revelation 13:3 (Parallel theme): And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

2 Peter 2:2 (Parallel theme): And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.