

Acts 8:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Analysis

The apostles in Jerusalem heard of Samaria's reception of God's word and sent Peter and John to investigate and confirm. This demonstrates apostolic oversight and the unity of the early church. The Samaritan mission was too important to proceed without apostolic validation, given the historic Jewish-Samaritan divide. Reformed theology sees the importance of church order and oversight - new works should be examined and confirmed by established leadership. The apostles' involvement ensured the Samaritan church began on sound doctrinal foundation.

Historical Context

Jerusalem remained the mother church and center of apostolic authority in Christianity's early years. This sending of apostles parallels Jesus' practice of confirming and authorizing new ministry (Luke 10:1). Peter and John had once wanted to call down fire on Samaritans (Luke 9:54) - now they brought the Spirit's fire.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What role should church authority and oversight play in new ministry ventures?
2. How does apostolic confirmation of Samaria's conversion demonstrate church unity?
3. Why was it crucial that the apostles personally validated the Samaritan mission?

Interlinear Text

Ακούσαντες δὲ τὸν ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις ἀπόστολοι
heard Now which were at Jerusalem when the apostles
G191 G1161 G3588 G1722 G2414 G652

ὅτι δέδεκται τὸν Σαμάρεια τὸν λόγον τὸν θεοῦ
that had received which Samaria which the word which of God
G3754 G1209 G3588 G4540 G3588 G3056 G3588 G2316

ἀπέστειλαν πρὸς αὐτοὺς τὸν Πέτρον καὶ Ἰωάννην
they sent unto them which Peter and John
G649 G4314 G846 G3588 G4074 G2532 G2491

Additional Cross-References

1 Thessalonians 3:2 (References God): And sent Timotheus, our brother, and minister of God, and our fellowlabourer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you, and to comfort you concerning your faith:

1 Thessalonians 2:13 (Word): For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

Acts 8:1 (References Jerusalem): And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at

Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

Galatians 2:9 (References John): And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

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