

Acts 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

Analysis

Persecution's unintended consequence—"they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching"—demonstrates God's sovereignty in using opposition to fulfill His mission. The Greek 'diaspeiro' (scattered) suggests seed-sowing, with persecution becoming the mechanism for gospel dispersal. This fulfills Jesus' prediction that witnesses would spread from Jerusalem (Acts 1:8).

Historical Context

Stephen's martyrdom (AD 33-34) triggered fierce persecution under Saul, scattering believers throughout Judea and Samaria. Only apostles remained in Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), while others became missionary evangelists, transforming refugees into church planters.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God use difficult circumstances to advance His purposes beyond human plans?
2. What can modern Christians learn from the early church's evangelistic response to persecution?

Interlinear Text

Οἱ	μὲν	οὖν	διασπαρέντες	διῆλθον
G3588	G3303	Therefore	they that were scattered abroad	went every where
		G3767	G1289	G1330
εὐαγγελιζόμενοι	τὸν	λόγον		
preaching	G3588	the word		
G2097		G3056		

Additional Cross-References

Acts 11:19 (Word): Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.

Acts 8:1 (Parallel theme): 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.

Matthew 10:23 (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

Acts 15:35 (Word): Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.

1 Thessalonians 2:2 (Parallel theme): But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

