

Acts 9:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

Analysis

Ananias continued his protest: Saul 'hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.' Calling on Christ's name marks Christians - prayer to Jesus as Lord demonstrates His deity and believers' dependence. Ananias feared Saul's official authorization from Jerusalem's religious authorities. Yet this very fear highlighted the magnitude of God's grace about to be displayed. From a Reformed perspective, human impossibilities showcase divine power - transforming the authorized persecutor into the authorized apostle demonstrates God's sovereignty over human plans and authorities.

Historical Context

The high priest's authority to arrest Christians extended throughout the diaspora through cooperative synagogues. Ananias rightly feared that Saul's official mandate posed genuine danger to Damascus's Christian community.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does 'calling on Christ's name' teach about prayer and Jesus' deity?
2. How does the magnitude of Saul's opposition magnify the miracle of his conversion?
3. Why does God's grace triumph over human authority and opposition?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὧδε ἔχει ἐξουσίαν παρὰ τῶν ἀρχιερέων δῆσαι
And here he hath authority from ^{G2532 G5602 G2192 G1849 G3844} ^{G3588} **the chief priests to bind** ^{G749 G1210}

πάντας τοὺς ἐπικαλουμένους τὸ ὄνομά σου
all ^{G3956 G3588} **that call** ^{G1941 G3588} **name** ^{G3686} **on thy** ^{G4675}

Additional Cross-References

Acts 9:21 (Parallel theme): But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests?

Acts 7:59 (Parallel theme): And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.

2 Timothy 2:22 (Parallel theme): Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Acts 22:16 (Parallel theme): And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 1:2 (Parallel theme): Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's:

