

Acts 9:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

Analysis

And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. The witnesses to Saul's Damascus Road encounter experienced partial sensory phenomena, confirming the event's objective reality while highlighting Saul's unique call.

Stood speechless indicates stunned inability to respond. They recognized something extraordinary occurred but couldn't fully comprehend it. The phrase hearing a voice yet seeing no man creates tension with Acts 22:9, which states they saw light but didn't hear the voice. Reformed scholarship reconciles these: they heard sound without comprehending words, or perceived light without seeing the Person Saul encountered.

The companions' partial experience validates Saul's testimony—this wasn't subjective vision but objective event with multiple witnesses. Yet their limited comprehension demonstrates God's particular calling of Saul. Not all present receive identical revelation; God speaks specifically to those He calls for particular purposes.

This pattern repeats in Scripture: at Christ's baptism (Matthew 3:17), transfiguration (Matthew 17:5), and resurrection appearances (John 20), witnesses experience varying degrees of perception. God accommodates revelation to His purposes for each person involved.

Historical Context

The Damascus Road conversion (Acts 9:1-19) occurred around 34-35 CE, transforming Christianity's greatest persecutor into its most influential apostle. Saul traveled with Temple authorities' authorization to arrest Christians in Damascus synagogues.

The companions likely included temple guards or officials assisting Saul's mission. Their witness confirmed Saul's account wasn't fabricated—something objective occurred. Paul later recounts this event in Acts 22:6-11 and 26:12-18, with variations reflecting different rhetorical contexts and emphases. The core facts remain consistent: bright light, encounter with risen Jesus, divine commission.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How do the witnesses' partial perceptions validate Saul's conversion while highlighting God's specific calling?
2. What does varying revelation among witnesses teach about God's sovereignty in self-disclosure?
3. In what ways does Christ's appearance to Saul confirm the resurrection's objective reality?
4. How should believers respond to apparent discrepancies in parallel biblical accounts?
5. What role do witnesses play in confirming divine encounters and supernatural events?

Interlinear Text

τῆς	δὲ	ἄνδρες	τῆς	συνοδεύοντες	αὐτῷ	είστηκεισαν
which	And	the men	which	journeyed	with him	stood
G3588	G1161	G435	G3588	G4922	G846	G2476
ἐννεοί,	ἀκούοντες	μὲν	τῆς	φωνῆς	μηδένα	δὲ
speechless	hearing	G3303	which	a voice	no man	And
G1769	G191		G3588	G5456	G3367	G1161
θεωροῦντες						
seeing						
G2334						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 22:9 (Parallel theme): And they that were with me saw indeed the light, and were afraid; but they heard not the voice of him that spake to me.

Daniel 10:7 (Parallel theme): And I Daniel alone saw the vision: for the men that were with me saw not the vision; but a great quaking fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves.

John 12:29 (Parallel theme): The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.