

John 11:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

Analysis

The council fears that universal belief in Jesus will provoke Roman intervention, destroying 'our place and nation.' 'Our place' likely means the Temple and their religious authority. Their concern is self-preservation disguised as patriotism. Ironically, rejecting Messiah brings the very judgment they fear—Rome destroyed Jerusalem in AD 70. This demonstrates that human schemes to prevent God's will accomplish it. Their statement also reveals spiritual blindness: they fear losing what they should surrender. Security comes through faith in Messiah, not political maneuvering.

Historical Context

Rome allowed Jewish religious autonomy but crushed perceived rebellion brutally. The leaders feared messianic movements would trigger Roman military response. This fear was realized in AD 70, validating Jesus' prophecies (Luke 19:41-44).

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does self-preservation disguised as concern for others corrupt spiritual leadership?
2. What does the irony of their fear becoming reality teach about opposing God's purposes?
3. In what ways do we cling to 'our place' when God calls us to surrender it?

Interlinear Text

ἐὰν	ἄφ᾽ ὧμεν	αὐτόν	οὕτως	πάντες	πιστεύσουσιν	εἰς	
If	alone	him	thus	all	men will believe	on	
G1437	G863	G846	G3779	G3956	G4100	G1519	
αὐτόν	καὶ	ἐλεύσονται	οἱ	Ῥωμαῖοι	καὶ	ἀροῦσιν	ἡμῶν
him	and	shall come	G3588	the Romans	and	take away	our
G846	G2532	G2064		G4514	G2532	G142	G2257
καὶ	τὸν	τόπον	καὶ	τὸ	ἔθνος		
and	G3588	place	and	G3588	nation		
G2532		G5117	G2532		G1484		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 8:12 (Faith): Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.