

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

Psalm 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 ἀφῶμεν 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 the Romans and take away our
G846 G2532 G2064 G3588 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.