

John 7:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

Analysis

Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles? The Jews misunderstand Jesus's words, thinking He plans geographical relocation. Their suggestion—going to diaspora Jews 'among the Gentiles' (diaspora) or even teaching Gentiles—shows they can't conceive of spiritual realities. Ironically, their confusion prophesies gospel truth: Christ's message would go to Gentiles through apostolic mission.

Historical Context

The 'dispersed' (diaspora) refers to Jews scattered throughout Roman Empire and beyond. By first century, more Jews lived outside Palestine than in it. Teaching Gentiles would have seemed disgraceful to Jewish authorities. Yet their unwitting prophecy came true—the gospel went to Gentiles (Acts 10-11, 13-28), fulfilling God's plan. John's late first-century audience, predominantly Gentile Christians, would see irony in this verse.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does their misunderstanding ironically predict gospel spread?
2. What does their inability to conceive of spiritual truth reveal about unregenerate thinking?
3. How did the gospel reaching Gentiles fulfill God's purposes?

Interlinear Text

εἶπον	οὖν	οἱ	Ἰουδαῖοι	πρὸς	ἑαυτούς	Ποῦ	οὗτος
said	Then	G3588	the Jews	among	themselves	Whither	he
G2036	G3767		G2453	G4314	G1438	G4226	G3778
μέλλει	πορεύεσθαι	ὅτι	ἡμεῖς	οὐχ	εὐρήσομεν	αὐτόν	μὴ
will	go	that	we	not	find	him	will
G3195	G4198	G3754	G2249	G3756	G2147	G846	G3361
εἰς	τὴν	διασπορὰν	τῶν	Ἑλλήνας	μέλλει	πορεύεσθαι	
unto	G3588	the dispersed	G3588	among the Gentiles	will	go	
G1519		G1290		G1672	G3195	G4198	
καὶ	διδάσκειν	τοὺς	Ἑλλήνας				
and	teach	G3588	among the Gentiles				
G2532	G1321		G1672				

Additional Cross-References

James 1:1 (Parallel theme): James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.

Isaiah 11:12 (Parallel theme): And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

1 Peter 1:1 (Parallel theme): Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

Zephaniah 3:10 (Parallel theme): From beyond the rivers of Ethiopia my suppliants, even the daughter of my dispersed, shall bring mine offering.

John 12:20 (Parallel theme): And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

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