

John 7:43

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

So there was a division among the people because of him.

Analysis

So there was a division among the people because of him. Jesus creates division —'schisma' (division/split). This fulfills Jesus's own prediction (Matthew 10:34-35). The gospel divides humanity based on response to Christ. Some believed, others rejected; some saw prophet, others saw deceiver. Neutrality toward Christ is impossible. Reformed theology emphasizes that Christ is set for the fall and rising of many (Luke 2:34)—a stone of stumbling or foundation stone, never neutral ground.

Historical Context

John repeatedly notes division over Jesus (7:43, 9:16, 10:19). This continued throughout church history—families divided (Matthew 10:35-36), communities split, nations torn over Christ. The early church experienced this division as persecution arose from Jewish and pagan opponents. The Reformation divided Christianity over gospel clarity. Christ remains divisive—He cannot be domesticated into culture's pet teacher but demands total allegiance, provoking division.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why does Christ necessarily divide rather than unite all people?
2. How should Christians respond when gospel creates family or social division?
3. What does division over Christ reveal about spiritual warfare?

Interlinear Text

σχίσμα	οὖν	ἐν	τῷ	ὄχλῳ	ἐγένετο	δι'	αὐτόν·
a division	So	among	G3588	the people	there was	because	of him
G4978	G3767	G1722		G3793	G1096	G1223	G846

Additional Cross-References

John 9:16 (Parallel theme): Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them.

John 10:19 (Parallel theme): There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings.

John 7:12 (Parallel theme): And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.