

John 7:52

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.

Analysis

They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. The Pharisees respond with ridicule. Questioning whether Nicodemus is Galilean is insulting—Galileans were viewed as backward. The command 'search and look' dismisses his argument. Their claim 'out of Galilee ariseth no prophet' is false—Jonah was from Gath-hepher in Galilee (2 Kings 14:25), and likely others. Their dogmatic assertion shows how prejudice trumps evidence. They refuse investigation, preferring comfortable assumptions.

Historical Context

The Pharisees' claim about no Galilean prophets shows either ignorance or willful blindness. Regional prejudice against Galilee was strong among Jerusalem elites. Yet God repeatedly chose unlikely people and places—David from Bethlehem, Elijah from Tishbe, Amos from Tekoa. First-century Judean contempt for Galileans parallels class/regional prejudices throughout history. The gospel challenges all such biases, showing God's grace transcends human categories.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does prejudice blind us to truth?
2. What modern prejudices might similarly obstruct recognizing God's work?
3. How do we ensure we're not making similar errors based on bias rather than evidence?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθησαν καὶ εἶπον αὐτῷ Μὴ καὶ σὺ ἐκ τῆς
They answered also said unto him Art also thou of G3588
G611 G2532 G2036 G846 G3361 G2532 G4771 G1537

Γαλιλαίας εἰ ἐρεύνησον καὶ ἵδε ὅτι προφήτης ἐκ τῆς
Galilee G1488 Search also G1492 for prophet of G3588
G1056 G2045 G2532 G3754 G4396 G1537

Γαλιλαίας οὐκ ἐγνησταί
Galilee no ariseth
G1056 G3756 G1453

Additional Cross-References

John 7:41 (Parallel theme): Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee?

John 1:46 (Parallel theme): And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see.