

Luke 11:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

Analysis

Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute (διὰ τοῦτο καὶ ἡ σοφία τοῦ θεοῦ εἶπεν, Ἀποστελῶ εἰς αὐτοὺς προφήτας καὶ ἀποστόλους, καὶ ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀποκτενοῦσιν καὶ ἐκδιώξουσιν)—Jesus quotes 'the wisdom of God' (hē sophia tou theou), possibly referring to lost Scripture, Jesus's own wisdom, or personified divine wisdom (cf. Proverbs 8). God will send prophētas kai apostolous (prophets and apostles)—the prophets pointed to Messiah, the apostles proclaimed him. Both groups face apokteinō (killing) and ekdiōkō (persecution).

This verse is prophetic: Jesus predicts his apostles' persecution (Acts documents this fulfillment). God's sending prophets knowing they'll be killed demonstrates divine sovereignty working through human rebellion. The pattern of prophetic rejection culminates in rejecting God's Son (Luke 20:9-15), yet God uses even this rejection to accomplish redemption.

Historical Context

First-century Judaism recognized a 'prophetic office' extending from Moses through Malachi, with expectation of eschatological prophets (Elijah, the Prophet like Moses). Jesus adds 'apostles'—his authorized messengers who will establish the church. Both groups faced systematic opposition from religious authorities, as Acts chronicles.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does God's foreknowledge of prophetic rejection and martyrdom inform your understanding of suffering in ministry?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty over human rebellion —using opposition to accomplish his purposes?
3. How should knowing that apostles and prophets were persecuted shape expectations for faithful Christian witness today?

Interlinear Text

διὰ	τοῦτο	καὶ	ἡ	σοφία	τοῦ	θεοῦ	εἶπεν
Therefore	G5124	also	G3588	the wisdom	G3588	of God	said
G1223		G2532		G4678		G2316	G2036
Ἄποστελῶ	εἰς	αὐτῶν	προφήτας	καὶ	ἀποστόλους	καὶ	
I will send	G1519	them	prophets	also	apostles	also	
G649		G846	G4396	G2532	G652	G2532	
ἐξ	αὐτῶν	ἀποκτενοῦσιν	καὶ	ἐκδιώξουσιν.			
some of	them	they shall slay	also	persecute			
G1537	G846	G615	G2532	G1559			

Additional Cross-References

1 Corinthians 1:30 (References God): But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Colossians 2:3 (Parallel theme): In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Ephesians 4:11 (Prophecy): And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

1 Corinthians 1:24 (References God): But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

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