

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

Psalms 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 |
| Ἀποστελῶ | 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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