

Luke 16:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets;
let them hear them.

Analysis

Abraham's response: 'Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.' Abraham points to Scripture—'Moses and the prophets' (Μωϋσέα καὶ τοὺς προφῆτας, Mōusea kai tous prophētas)—as sufficient revelation. The command 'let them hear them' (ἀκουσάτωσαν αὐτῶν, akousatōsan autōn) indicates God has provided adequate testimony. The Old Testament Scriptures contain everything necessary for salvation: humanity's sinfulness, God's holiness and justice, the need for sacrifice and atonement, and promises of the coming Messiah. If people won't hear Scripture's testimony, supernatural signs won't convince them. The problem isn't insufficient information but hardness of heart.

Historical Context

This verse establishes Scripture's sufficiency for salvation. God has spoken through His word; nothing else is required. The phrase 'Moses and the prophets' was Jewish shorthand for the Old Testament (Luke 24:27, 44). These Scriptures testified about Christ and salvation (John 5:39, 46). Abraham's appeal to Scripture rather than agreeing to send Lazarus teaches that faith comes by hearing the word (Romans 10:17), not by spectacular signs. Jesus consistently refused to perform signs for those demanding miracles as conditions for belief (Matthew 12:38-39, 16:1-4). Those who reject Scripture won't be convinced by miracles—the same hardness that resists God's word resists His works.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does this verse establish the Bible's sufficiency for knowing God and obtaining salvation?
2. Why won't people who reject Scripture be convinced even by supernatural signs?
3. What does this teach about the relationship between faith and evidence?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῶν	Ἀβραάμ	ἔχουσιν	Μωσέα	καὶ	τοὺς
saith	them	Abraham	They have	Moses	and	G3588
G3004	G846	G11	G2192	G3475	G2532	
προφήτας·	ἀκουσάτωσαν	αὐτῶν				
the prophets	let them hear	them				
G4396	G191	G846				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 15:21 (References Moses): For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.

Luke 24:27 (Prophecy): And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.