

Luke 24:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye are witnesses of these things.

Analysis

The apostolic commission: 'And ye are witnesses of these things.' Jesus declares: 'ye are witnesses' (ὑμεῖς μάρτυρες, hymeyis martyres) 'of these things' (τούτων, toutōn)—His life, death, and resurrection. A witness testifies to what they've seen and heard. The disciples had firsthand experience of Jesus' ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection appearances. Their testimony would launch Christianity. The term 'martyres' became the source of 'martyr,' as many witnesses died for their testimony. This commission establishes apostolic authority—they are authorized witnesses whose testimony forms the New Testament foundation. The church is built on apostolic witness (Ephesians 2:20), which continues through Scripture they produced.

Historical Context

The concept of witness is crucial in Luke-Acts. Luke writes 'that thou mightest know the certainty of those things' (Luke 1:4) based on eyewitness testimony (Luke 1:2). Acts emphasizes apostles as resurrection witnesses (Acts 1:8, 22, 2:32, 3:15, 5:32, 10:39-41, 13:31). Their testimony was historical, not mythological—they saw, touched, ate with the risen Jesus. Skeptics note that we're dependent on these witnesses' truthfulness. But their credibility is strong:

1. multiple independent witnesses
2. willingness to die for testimony
3. inclusion of embarrassing details
4. immediate proclamation when contradicts could refute.

The witnesses' testimony, preserved in Scripture, remains the foundation of Christian faith.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What qualifies the disciples as witnesses, and why is eyewitness testimony important?
2. How does apostolic witness establish New Testament authority?
3. What evidence supports the credibility and reliability of the apostolic witnesses?

Interlinear Text

ὑμεῖς δὲ ἔστε μάρτυρες τούτων
ye And are witnesses of these things
G5210 G1161 G2075 G3144 G5130

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:32 (Witness): This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 13:31 (Witness): And he was seen many days of them which came up with him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are his witnesses unto the people.

Acts 5:32 (Witness): And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

Acts 10:41 (Witness): Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.

Acts 1:8 (Witness): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 3:15 (Witness): And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

Acts 10:39 (Witness): And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Acts 1:22 (Witness): Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Acts 4:33 (Witness): And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

John 15:27 (Witness): And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.