

Matthew 10:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles.

Analysis

Persecution scope expands: 'ye shall be brought before governors and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them and the Gentiles' (και επι ηγεμονας δε και βασιλεις αχθησεσθε ενεκεν εμου εις μαρτυριον αυτοις και τοις εθνεσιν). Beyond Jewish councils, disciples face 'governors' (Roman provincial rulers) and 'kings' (client kings like Herods). 'For my sake' (ενεκεν εμου) clarifies: persecution stems from Christian identity, not criminal behavior. Purpose: 'for a testimony' (εις μαρτυριον)—trials become gospel opportunities. Defendants become witnesses; courtrooms become pulpits. Persecution evangelizes persecutors, bringing gospel to political elite unreachable otherwise. History confirms this: Paul's imprisonments reached Philippian jailer, Felix, Festus, Agrippa, Caesar's household. Suffering advances gospel.

Historical Context

Early Christians faced both Jewish and Roman persecution. Acts records trials before Jewish councils (Acts 4-5), Roman governors (Felix, Festus, Acts 24-26), and kings (Herod, Agrippa, Acts 12, 26). Paul's Roman citizenship brought him before Caesar (Acts 25:11). Persecution inadvertently spread the gospel: scattered Christians evangelized new regions (Acts 8:4); imprisoned apostles witnessed to guards; trials provided public platforms. Church fathers saw martyrdom as evangelistic tool: 'blood of martyrs is seed of the church' (Tertullian).

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How can persecution and trials become opportunities for gospel witness?
2. What does this passage teach about God's sovereignty in using opposition for His purposes?
3. How should Christians view and respond to persecution when it comes?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐπὶ	ἡγεμόνας	δὲ	καὶ	βασιλεῖς	ἀχθήσεσθε
And	before	governors	G1161	And	kings	ye shall be brought
G2532	G1909	G2232		G2532	G935	G71
ἕνεκεν	ἐμοῦ	εἰς	μαρτύριον	αὐτοῖς	καὶ	τοῖς ἔθνεσιν
for my	sake	for	a testimony	against them	And	the Gentiles
G1752	G1700	G1519	G3142	G846	G2532	G1484

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