

Does the Bible Say That?

Acts 13:14-48

The Issue: There are two main questions that arise from this text: (1) v. 27 suggests that sin fulfills prophecy, which seems odd; (2) v. 48 implies that only those who are "appointed" (beforehand?) to eternal life believed. Calvinists attempt to use this passage to prove predestination.

Questions

1. Define these terms or phrases:
 - "For those who live in Jerusalem" [v. 27]
 - "the prophets" [v. 27]
 - "because they did not recognize him" [v. 27]? (Cf. I Cor 2:8, Acts 3:17-18)
 - "appointed" and "eternal life" [v. 48]
2. Is there irony or an obvious connection to v. 15? If so, describe it.
3. Is there any connection with v. 48 to v. 27? If so, what is it?
4. Compare the attitude of the Gentiles [v. 48] with the attitude of the Jews [v. 45]? What's the difference and why? Does it help answer our questions?

Big Picture Thought Questions

- How does Acts 13 – specifically verses 27 & 48 – affect your understanding of God's total plan of salvation for us?
- How does sin and God's omniscience fit into that plan (cf. Acts 2:23)?

Application

- Is there a warning here or application to us about the scriptures? Or prophets? Or anything else?
- Explain the concept of 'ignorance' here as it is alluded to and directly stated in other passages addressing the Jews. What is the application of that to us today? Is there any?