

Theology on the Web.org.uk

Making Biblical Scholarship Accessible

This document was supplied for free educational purposes. Unless it is in the public domain, it may not be sold for profit or hosted on a webserver without the permission of the copyright holder.

If you find it of help to you and would like to support the ministry of Theology on the Web, please consider using the links below:



Buy me a coffee

<https://www.buymeacoffee.com/theology>



PATREON

<https://patreon.com/theologyontheweb>

PayPal

<https://paypal.me/robbradshaw>

A table of contents for *The Expository Times* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_expository-times_01.php

pdfs are named: [Volume]_[Issue]_[1st page of article].pdf

tradition, not a real one; in the first a genitive is put after ἀκούω, in the latter an accusative; now ἀκούω with a genitive means simply to *hear*, ἀκούω with an accusative means to *hear and understand*; we may conclude therefore that Paul's companions *heard* the sound of the voice, but *did not understand* the words which were uttered.' After careful considerations, I think the above explanation an impossible one. In the fourth verse of this passage St. Luke says, 'He heard a voice (φωνήν) saying unto him, etc.' In the other passage St. Paul says of himself, 'I heard a voice (φωνῆς) saying unto me.' In the first passage the men stood speechless, hearing the voice (φωνῆς). In the other, 'they heard not the voice (φωνήν) of Him that spake unto me.'

Here the usage of genitive or accusative would seem to be quite indifferent (see also Acts xi. 7, 'I heard also a voice (φωνῆς) saying unto me, Arise, Peter').

Is there an explanation of the discrepancy. St. Paul states that a great light shone about him. He does not here state that he himself saw the Lord. But he says so elsewhere (1 Cor. ix. 1, xv. 8), and it must have been on this occasion. St. Luke says the men saw no one; St. Paul says they saw the light. So far we have no contradiction. Did the men hear nothing? St. Paul says, 'They heard not the voice of Him that spake to me.' That does not imply they did not hear St. Paul addressing some one. It would rather imply they did. We would therefore translate the verse under consideration, 'The men stood speechless, hearing the *speaking*, but seeing no man' (that is, to whom the speaking could be addressed). Is there warrant for this translation? In John x. 3 we have, 'The sheep hear his voice (genitive), and he calleth his own sheep by name.' That is, they listen when he speaks to them.

John xviii. 37: 'To this end am I come into the world, that I may bear witness of the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice.' This can only mean 'listens to My speech.'

John v. 24, 25: 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth Him that sent Me, hath eternal life. . . . The hour cometh, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.' This surely also means, as before, 'the dead (those that have not yet attained to life in Christ) shall listen to Him speaking to them.'

Rev. iii. 20: 'I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear My voice (listen to Me when I speak) I will come in unto him.'

On the other hand, when the accusative is used the emphasis is in the sound made (compare Matt. xi. 9; Rev. i. 10, iv. 1).

Hence we see that St. Luke telling the story emphasises the fact that St. Paul heard the *sound* of a voice which said certain things to him, and to which he gave audible answer. The men heard the speaking, but saw no one. The speaking they heard was St. Paul's. St. Paul, on the other hand, emphasises the fact that he heard speech addressed to him, but says the men did not hear even the sound of the voice of Him who was talking to him. The men must, of course, have heard St. Paul speak. The reality to St. Paul was the bodily presence of the Crucified One in blinding glory and His voice in human accents; to the men it was a bright light and an apparent conversation with no one. T.

Christ's use of the Word 'Kingdom.'

I DO not wish to follow Dr. Jannaris into a discussion of passages, which, as he says, may be influenced by long and stereotyped habit of thought. I will merely quote one in which it seems to me that that has no room for play, in which Christ clearly defines His position, and which may therefore be taken to explain all the rest. I refer to John xviii. 33-38. In it Jesus is on His trial before Pilate, who puts to Him the question: 'Art thou the King of the Jews.' Jesus replies: 'My kingdom is not of this world. . . . Now is My kingdom not from hence.' Pilate then puts the question: 'Art thou a king then?' Jesus replies: 'Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end have I been born, and to this end am I come into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth.' In this passage Jesus claims to be a spiritual king, and to have a spiritual kingdom. But it is manifest that Jesus uses the word kingdom (βασιλεία), and Pilate understands it, as the abstract of king (βασιλεύς), not of Lord (κύριος). To show that He uses it in the latter sense in any other passage, equally clear evidence must be adduced.

JOHN ROBSON.

Aberdeen.