Acts 4:12: No Other Name Under Heaven

Abstract

This paper, given at the Edinburgh Christology Conference 2002, challenges the reading of Acts 4:12 that supports a restrictive attitude to the possibility of salvation for non-Christians. It first of all sets out what the text does and does not teach, and considers the problems posed by reading it with presuppositions as has frequently been the case. Instead it is proposed that the text be read within its wider context and a case is made for a less restrictive interpretation. The implications of this for a theology of missions are also examined.

[A version of this paper also appeared in Crockett and Sigountos, eds.: Through No Fault of Their Own?: The Fate of Those Who Have Never Heard (Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Book House, 1991).]

Keywords

Bible; New Testament; Jesus; Peter; Acts; Acts 4:12; Luke-Acts; biblical interpretation; salvation; Christianity; mission

Issue

Acts 4:12 New International Version (NIV). 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.®

Cross references: Acts 4:12 : S Mt 1:21; Jn 14:6; Ac 10:43; S Ro 11:14; 1Ti 2:5. New International Version (NIV). Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright ©1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Acts 4:12 in all English translations. Bible Gateway Recommends. NIV Study Bible, Hardcover. You'll get this book and many others when you join Bible Gateway Plus. Learn more. You must be logged in to view your newly purchased content. Read Acts 4:12 Using Other Translations. KJV. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. ESV. And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” NLT. There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved.” View Study Resources.