
Greek Verse

Acts 4:4 πολλοὶ δὲ τῶν ἀκουσάντων τὸν λόγον ἐπίστευσαν, καὶ ἐγενήθη ὁ ἀριθμὸς τῶν ἀνδρῶν ὡς χιλιάδες πέντε.

Word-for-Word
Translation

Proper Translation

However, many of those who had heard this message had already come to have faith. In fact, the number of these people was around five thousand.

Comments and
Questions

According to Barrett in the ICC, in Acts ἄνδρες means men, as opposed to the broader ἄνθρωποι. There is no case where ἄνδρες can be shown to include women in Acts. On the other hand, several times it is coupled with γυναῖκες (5:14; 8:3, 12; 9:2; 17:12; 22:4).

In any case, the words of Peter/John, together with this healing, had made quite an impact.

An increase on the 3,000 of 2:41.

γίνεται is usual in expressing the result of an arithmetical process.

C. K. Barrett, A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, International Critical Commentary (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2004), 221.

It is odd that Galilee is ignored in Acts.

ὥς before numbers, *about*.

Max Zerwick and Mary Grosvenor, *A Grammatical Analysis of the Greek New Testament* (Rome: Biblical Institute Press, 1974), 360.

Luke is uninterested in precise polling numbers! but rather is documenting and highlighting the *growth* of the church.

The number of men came to about five thousand indicates that the total number of believers was now five thousand (see 2:41), not that an additional five thousand persons were added to the group, for example, "all the believers totaled five thousand" or "the number of believers became five thousand."

Barclay Moon Newman and Eugene Albert Nida, *A Handbook on the Acts of the Apostles, UBS Handbook Series* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1972), 92.

Hanson (76f.) defends the number 5,000 as credible, arguing that Jeremias's estimate of the population of Jerusalem (25,000–30,000) is much too small. He refers to Diodorus Siculus 40:3:8; Josephus, *Apion* 1:194, 197; *War* 6:422–5.

C. K. Barrett, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Acts of the Apostles, International Critical Commentary* (Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2004), 222.

Note however that the number of out-of-towners may still be large at this point. But even in a modern city of a million, 5,000 all making a decision to join a new movement would be front page news. In