

Acts 4:27,28

THREATS DETERMINED BY THY COUNSEL

- I. The prayer.
 - A. Notice what the company of believers did NOT do.
 - B. Instead, taking the threats seriously, they turned to the Lord with the confidence that He would sustain them and protect them.
 - 1. They began their prayer by reminding themselves of Who God is by their address.
 - 2. And He is the One Who has revealed Himself in Scripture (25).
- II. They prayerfully reminded themselves that God is in control of also these threats.
 - A. There is terrible and frightening opposition to God and His holy servant Jesus.
 - 1. And if against Christ (the anointed of Jehovah), then certainly against His disciples.
 - 2. Note that the opposition was and is against God's "child" (and children) who are "holy."
 - B. The quote from Psalm 2:1,2 explains the opposition being faced by the Christians.
 - 1. The opponents were consciously and willingly full of hatred of God's Anointed.
 - 2. Even the worst opposition to Christ will in the end serve the purpose of God.
- III. Conclusions.
 - A. First, God's absolute sovereignty does not remove human responsibility.
 - B. The Lord answers immediately: they were "filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (31).
 - 1. This remains God's promise for Christians today. He calls us to holy boldness and He equips us for holy boldness.
 - 2. This boldness frees us from the fear of men and all that they can do because we know that God is in control.
 - 3. Above all we know that Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead (II Tim. 1:12).