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.

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Keywords

Bible; New Testament; Jesus; Peter; Acts; Acts 4:12; Luke-Acts; biblical interpretation; salvation; Christianity; mission
Acts 4:12. Choose Book Choose Chapter Choose Verse. ×. And salvation is not in any other man, for there is no other name under the heaven, that has been given among men, by which we must be saved. American Standard Version.

And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there another name under heaven given among men, wherein we must be saved. Amplified.

And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given by which we must be saved. An Understandable Version.

And in no other is there salvation: for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved. English Standard Version.

And salvation is not in any other man, for there is no other name under the heaven, that has been given among men, which we must be saved. American Standard Version. And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there another name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved. Amplified. And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by and in which we must be saved. An Understandable Version. And there is salvation in no other One [than Jesus] for there is no other Name in the whole world, proclaimed by Acts 4:12 (BBE) And in no other is there salvation: for there is no other name under heaven, given among men, through which we may have salvation. Common English Bible. Chapter Parallel. Acts 4:12 (CJB) There is salvation in no one else! For there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by whom we must be saved!” Holman Christian Standard Bible. Chapter Parallel. Acts 4:12 (CSB) There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved.” The Darby Translation. Chapter Parallel. Acts 4:12 (DBY) And salvation is in none other, for neither is there another name under heaven which is given among men by which we must be saved. English Standard Version. Chapter Parallel.