

Acts 1:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Analysis

Peter attributes Judas' betrayal to Scripture's necessity - 'this scripture must needs have been fulfilled.' The phrase 'the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David' affirms the Spirit's authorship of Scripture through human writers. Divine sovereignty over even betrayal demonstrates that God's purposes cannot be thwarted.

Historical Context

Peter quotes Psalm 41:9 regarding betrayal by a close companion. Early Christians regularly found Christ and His circumstances prefigured in David's psalms, establishing the christological reading of Scripture.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does understanding divine sovereignty over evil comfort you without excusing human responsibility?
2. What does Scripture's 'necessity' teach about God's control over history's darkest moments?

Interlinear Text

Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί ἔδει πληρωθῆναι τὸν γραφὴν
Men and brethren must needs have been fulfilled which scripture
G435 G80 G1163 G4137 G3588 G1124

ταύτην, ἣν προεῖπεν τὸν πνεῦμα τὸν ἄγιον διὰ
G3778 which spake before which Ghost which the Holy by
G3739 G4277 G3588 G4151 G3588 G40 G1223

στόματος Δαβὶδ, περὶ Ἰούδα τὸν γενομένου ὁδηγοῦ
the mouth of David concerning Judas which was guide
G4750 G1138 G4012 G2455 G3588 G1096 G3595

τὸν συλλαβοῦσιν τὸν Ἰησοῦν
which to them that took which Jesus
G3588 G4815 G3588 G2424

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 41:9 (Parallel theme): Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:18 (Word): I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Acts 1:20 (Parallel theme): For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

Matthew 26:56 (Word): But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

Matthew 26:54 (Word): But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

Matthew 26:47 (Word): And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Mark 14:43 (Word): And immediately, while he yet spake, cometh Judas, one of the twelve, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.

1 Peter 1:11 (Spirit): Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Acts 13:38 (Parallel theme): Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins:

Acts 23:1 (Parallel theme): And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.