

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	προεἶπεν	τὸν	πνεῦμα	τὸν	ἅγιον 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.