

Acts 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

Analysis

When they had fulfilled all that was written of him—Paul emphasizes the complete fulfillment of messianic prophecy. The Greek τελέσαντες (telesantes, 'having completed/fulfilled') carries the sense of bringing to perfect completion, echoing Jesus's cry τετέλεσται (tetelestai, 'It is finished,' John 19:30). Paul's point is devastating: the Jewish leaders who rejected Jesus actually fulfilled the very Scriptures they claimed to uphold (Psalm 22, Isaiah 53).

Took him down from the tree (ἀπὸ τοῦ ξύλου, apo tou xylou)—'Tree' translates the Hebrew γυ (ets), deliberately invoking Deuteronomy 21:22-23: 'cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree' (cited in Galatians 3:13). This underscores that Christ became a curse for us. The irony is profound: those who condemned Him as cursed unknowingly participated in redemption. Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus, though not named here, fulfill this prophecy (John 19:38-42).

Historical Context

Paul delivered this sermon in Pisidian Antioch (modern Turkey) around AD 47-48 during his first missionary journey. Speaking in a synagogue (Acts 13:14-15), he traces Israel's history from the Exodus to Jesus, demonstrating that the crucifixion and resurrection fulfill God's ancient promises. His audience included both Jews and 'God-fearers' (Gentile converts to Judaism).

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does the irony of Christ's enemies fulfilling prophecy demonstrate God's sovereignty over human opposition?
2. What does Paul's emphasis on 'all that was written' teach about the unity and reliability of Old Testament Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ώς	δὲ	ἐτέλεσαν	ἀπαντα	τὰ	περὶ	αὐτοῦ	γεγραμμένα
when	And	they had fulfilled	all		of	him	that was written
G5613	G1161	G5055	G537	G3588	G4012	G846	G1125
καθελόντες	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	ξύλου	ἔθηκαν	εἰς	μνημεῖον	
they took him down	from	G3588	the tree	and laid	him in	a sepulchre	
G2507	G575		G3586	G5087	G1519	G3419	

Additional Cross-References

Luke 23:53 (Parallel theme): And he took it down, and wrapped it in linen, and laid it in a sepulchre that was hewn in stone, wherein never man before was laid.

John 19:30 (Parallel theme): When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

John 19:28 (Parallel theme): After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

Acts 5:30 (Parallel theme): The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree.

Luke 24:44 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

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