

Acts 16:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely:

Analysis

'When they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely.' Severe beating followed by maximum security imprisonment shows the perceived threat Paul posed. The jailor's charge 'to keep them safely' made him liable for their escape, ensuring harsh treatment.

Historical Context

Roman scourging (verberatio) involved leather whips embedded with metal or bone. Paul later referenced this beating (2 Cor. 11:25, 1 Thess. 2:2). The severity indicates how seriously authorities took the charges.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How should we respond to severe, unjust suffering?
2. What comfort comes from knowing Christ's servants have always faced persecution?
3. How does suffering for righteousness differ from suffering for wrongdoing?

Interlinear Text

πολλὰς	τε	ἐπιθέντες	αὐτούς	πληγὰς	ἔβαλον	εἰς
many	And	when they had laid	them	stripes	they cast	them into
G4183	G5037	G2007	G846	G4127	G906	G1519
φυλακὴν	παραγγείλαντες	τῷ	δεσμοφύλακι	ἀσφαλῶς		
prison	charging		the jailor	safely		
G5438	G3853	G3588	G1200	G806		
τηρεῖν	αὐτούς					
to keep	them					
G5083	G846					

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 2:10 (Parallel theme): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

2 Timothy 2:9 (Parallel theme): Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.