

John 1:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

Analysis

The tragic irony intensifies: 'He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.' The verb 'egn' (knew) uses the aorist tense, indicating decisive rejection. The Creator entered His creation, but creation failed to recognize its Maker. The word 'kosmos' (world) appears three times, shifting meaning: first as the sphere where Christ operated, second as His creation, third as humanity in rebellion. This cosmic blindness represents sin's devastating effect on human perception—unable to recognize the very source of existence.

Historical Context

The incarnation brought God into direct contact with fallen humanity. Despite three years of ministry, miracles, and teaching, Israel's leaders and most of the populace rejected Jesus. This rejection wasn't due to insufficient evidence but willful blindness—they loved darkness rather than light (John 3:19). The world's failure to know its Creator indicts humanity's spiritual condition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why does humanity, surrounded by evidence of the Creator, so often fail to recognize Him?
2. How does this verse address modern claims that if God existed, He would make Himself more obvious?

Interlinear Text

ἐν	τῷ	κόσμος	ἥν	καὶ	ό	κόσμος	δι'	αὐτὸν	
in	G3588	the world	G2258	He was	and	G3588	the world	by	him
G1722		G2889		G2532		G2889		G1223	G846
ἐγένετο	καὶ	ό	κόσμος	αὐτὸν	οὐκ	ἔγνω			
was made	and	G3588	the world	him	not	knew			
G1096	G2532		G2889	G846	G3756	G1097			

Additional Cross-References

John 17:25 (Parallel theme): O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me.

1 John 3:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 Corinthians 2:8 (Parallel theme): Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Hebrews 11:3 (Creation): Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

1 Corinthians 1:21 (Parallel theme): For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

John 1:18 (Parallel theme): No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 1:5 (Parallel theme): And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Acts 14:17 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

John 5:17 (Parallel theme): But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.