

John 10:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

Analysis

Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand (Ἐζήτουν οὖν αὐτὸν πάλιν πιάσαι· καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῶν, Ezētoun oun auton palin piasai· kai exēlthen ek tēs cheiros autōn)—Despite Jesus's rational defense and evidential appeal, they respond with renewed violence. The word πάλιν (palin, 'again') emphasizes persistent rejection. **He escaped out of their hand** (ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῶν, exēlthen ek tēs cheiros autōn) demonstrates supernatural protection—no one takes His life until He voluntarily lays it down (John 10:18).

This pattern repeats: Jesus presents clear teaching and evidence, religious leaders respond with murderous rage, He supernaturally escapes. It demonstrates that rejection of Christ isn't intellectual but volitional—they understand His claims perfectly and hate them. His repeated escapes prove God's sovereignty over the timing of the crucifixion—it happens at the appointed hour, not when humans choose.

Historical Context

This attempt to seize Jesus occurred during Hanukkah at Solomon's Portico. Security couldn't have been tight, yet Jesus walked away unhindered. Later, when His hour came, He voluntarily allowed arrest (John 18:4-8), demonstrating that all previous escapes were supernatural acts, not lucky circumstances.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. What does it reveal about human sinfulness that clear evidence and rational argument produce violent rejection rather than faith?
2. How does Jesus's repeated supernatural escapes until 'His hour' demonstrate God's control over redemptive history?
3. Why is it important that Jesus laid down His life voluntarily rather than being overpowered by enemies?

Interlinear Text

Ἐζήτουν οὖν πάλιν αὐτῶν πιάσαι καὶ ἐξῆλθεν ἐκ
they sought Therefore again him to take but he escaped out of
G2212 G3767 G3825 G846 G4084 G2532 G1831 G1537

τῆς χειρὸς αὐτῶν
G3588 hand G5495 him G846

Additional Cross-References

John 7:30 (Parallel theme): Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

John 8:59 (Parallel theme): Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

John 7:44 (Parallel theme): And some of them would have taken him; but no man laid hands on him.

John 10:31 (Parallel theme): Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

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