

# John 11:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

## Analysis

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John, writing retrospectively, clarifies the misunderstanding for readers. This editorial comment distinguishes between the disciples' understanding and reality. Jesus spoke of death's sleep (koimesis), but they thought natural sleep (hupnos). This hermeneutical note teaches proper biblical interpretation: understanding Jesus' words requires spiritual perception. John's clarification demonstrates the Gospel's catechetical purpose—teaching proper understanding of Christ's teaching.

## Historical Context

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John wrote his Gospel decades after these events with full knowledge of their significance. His editorial comments help readers avoid the disciples' misunderstandings and grow in understanding.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

## Study Questions

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1. How do John's clarifications help us properly interpret Jesus' teaching?

2. What role does retrospective understanding play in spiritual maturity?
3. In what ways does Scripture interpret Scripture, clarifying earlier statements?

## Interlinear Text

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εἰρήκει	δὲ	ὁ	Ἰησοῦς	περὶ	τοῦ	θανάτου	αὐτοῦ
<b>spake</b>	<b>Howbeit</b>	G3588	<b>Jesus</b>	<b>of</b>	G3588	<b>death</b>	<b>his</b>
G2046	G1161		G2424	G4012		G2288	G846
ἐκεῖνοι	δὲ	ἔδοξαν	ὅτι	περὶ	τῆς	κοιμήσεως	τοῦ
<b>they</b>	<b>Howbeit</b>	<b>thought</b>	<b>that</b>	<b>of</b>	G3588	<b>taking of rest</b>	G3588
G1565	G1161	G1380	G3754	G4012		G2838	
ὑπνου	λέγει						
<b>in sleep</b>	<b>he had spoken</b>						
G5258	G3004						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 9:24** (Parallel theme): He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn.