

John 11:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off:

Analysis

John notes Bethany's proximity to Jerusalem (about fifteen furlongs/two miles), explaining the many Jews present (v. 19). This geographical detail serves apologetic purpose: the miracle occurred near the religious capital with many witnesses. The nearness to Jerusalem also heightens narrative tension—Jesus performs His greatest sign within reach of those plotting His death. This proximity is providential, leading directly to the Sanhedrin's final decision (11:47-53).

Historical Context

Fifteen stadia equals approximately 1.7 miles. Bethany on the Mount of Olives' eastern slope served as Jesus' Jerusalem base during final visits. Archaeological excavations confirm the village's location.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does the miracle's proximity to Jerusalem demonstrate Christ's courage?

2. What does the abundance of witnesses teach about God's provision of evidence?
3. In what ways does geography serve God's redemptive purposes?

Interlinear Text

ἡν δὲ ἡ Βηθανία ἐγγὺς τῶν Ἱεροσολύμων ὡς ἀπὸ^{τοῦ}
was Now G3588 Bethany nigh G3588 unto Jerusalem about off
G2258 G1161 G963 G1451 G2414 G5613 G575

σταδίων δεκαπέντε^{τοῦ}
furlongs fifteen
G4712 G1178

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 14:20 (Parallel theme): And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org