

John 17:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Analysis

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world (καθὼς ἐμὲ ἀπέστειλας εἰς τὸν κόσμον, καὶ γὰρ ἀπέστειλα αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν κόσμον). Jesus uses *apostellō* (ἀποστέλλω)—to send as an authorized agent—the root of 'apostle.' This is missio Dei: the Father's sending of the Son becomes the paradigm for the Son's sending of His disciples.

The parallel is stunning: Christ's incarnational mission ('into the world,' εἰς τὸν κόσμον) now extends through His church. Just as He came not to condemn but to save (3:17), believers are sent not as judges but as witnesses. The perfect tense of 'I have sent' (ἀπέστειλο) indicates completed action with ongoing results—the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) is already operative in the upper room. This apostolic sending carries Christ's authority, presence, and purpose into hostile territory.

Historical Context

Spoken in the upper room (John 13-17) on Passover night, hours before Christ's arrest. Jesus is praying His High Priestly Prayer (chapter 17), commissioning the eleven apostles who will form the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). This 'sending' anticipates Pentecost and the church's missionary expansion across the Roman world.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing that you are 'sent into the world' with Christ's authority change your understanding of daily work, relationships, and witness?
2. In what ways might your mission parallel Christ's—entering hostile territory not to condemn but to save (John 3:17)?

Interlinear Text

καθὼς ἐμὲ ἀπέστειλα εἰς τὸν κόσμον· κἀγὼ ἀπέστειλα

As	me	have	into	G3588	the world	I also	have
G2531	G1691	G649	G1519		G2889	G2504	G649

αὐτοὺς εἰς τὸν κόσμον·

them	into	G3588	the world
G846	G1519		G2889

Additional Cross-References

John 20:21 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

2 Corinthians 5:20 (Parallel theme): Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

John 17:3 (Parallel theme): And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

Matthew 10:5 (Parallel theme): These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

John 4:38 (Parallel theme): I sent you to reap that whereon ye bestowed no labour: other men laboured, and ye are entered into their labours.

Ephesians 3:7 (Parallel theme): Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

John 17:23 (Parallel theme): I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

John 17:21 (Parallel theme): That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:8 (Parallel theme): For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.