

John 18:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew.

Analysis

Peter then denied again: and immediately the cock crew—The simple, stark Greek: Ἡρνήσατο οὖν πάλιν Πέτρος, καὶ εὐθέως ἀλέκτωρ ἐφώνησεν (Ērnēsato oun palin Petros, kai eutheōs alektōr ephōnēsen). The adverb εὐθέως (eutheōs, 'immediately') signals divine orchestration—the rooster's crow fulfilled Jesus's specific prediction (13:38).

This third denial completes Peter's fall from 'I will lay down my life for thee' (13:37) to triple rejection. Yet John omits Peter's bitter weeping (recorded in Matthew 26:75, Luke 22:62), focusing instead on chronology. The rooster's crow marks dawn approaching—darkness giving way to light, just as Peter's denial will yield to restoration (John 21).

Historical Context

Roman timekeeping divided night into four watches; the 'cockcrowing' (ἀλεκτοροφωνία, alektorophōnia) marked the third watch (midnight-3am) or the transition to the fourth watch (3am-6am). Roosters typically crow multiple times before dawn, but this particular cry's timing fulfilled prophecy precisely, demonstrating God's sovereignty over nature's rhythms.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the rooster's immediate crow demonstrate that God's word will be fulfilled even when it exposes our failures?
2. What comfort can you find in Peter's restoration after such catastrophic failure—how does this shape your understanding of divine grace?
3. Why does John omit Peter's weeping while the Synoptics emphasize it—what does this teach about repentance being more than emotional response?

Interlinear Text

πάλιν	οὖν	ἡρνήσατο	ὁ	Πέτρος	καὶ	εὐθέως	ἀλέκτωρ
again	then	denied	G3588	Peter	and	immediately	the cock
G3825	G3767	G720		G4074	G2532	G2112	G220

ἐφώνησεν

crew

G5455

Additional Cross-References

John 13:38 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, The cock shall not crow, till thou hast denied me thrice.