

John 18:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none.

Analysis

John's editorial comment connects Jesus's protective command to His earlier promise: "**Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none**" (*ῶν δέδωκάς μοι οὐκ ἀπώλεσα ἐξ αὐτῶν οὐδένα*/hōn dedokas moi ouk apōlesa ex autōn oudena). The conjunction "**That the saying might be fulfilled**" (*ἵνα πληρωθῇ ὁ λόγος*/hina plērōthē ho logos) uses divine purpose language—Jesus orchestrated events to fulfill His word.

The verb *πληρώω* (plēroō, "fulfill") appears throughout John's Gospel for prophetic fulfillment, but here applies to Jesus's own words from John 17:12. Jesus's prayer becomes prophecy; His promises carry the same authority as Old Testament Scripture. The perfect tense *δέδωκας* (dedokas, "you have given") emphasizes the completed divine gift—the Father gave these disciples to the Son, and the gift stands secure.

The emphatic double negative *οὐκ...οὐδένα* (ouk...oudena, "not...none") creates absolute negation—zero loss, total preservation. The verb *ἀπόλλυμι* (apollymi) means "destroy, lose, perish"—the same word used for eternal destruction in 3:16. Jesus preserves from both physical danger (here) and eternal perdition (ultimately). This verse establishes the doctrine of perseverance of the saints—those genuinely given to Christ by the Father will never be lost.

Historical Context

Writing decades after the events, John reflects theologically on Jesus's words and actions. For the beloved disciple, everything Jesus did fulfilled divine purpose, including seemingly small details like protecting disciples during arrest. This interpretive method—seeing Jesus's earthly ministry as fulfilling His own words—became foundational for apostolic theology. The early church faced constant threats—persecution, martyrdom, apostasy. This verse provided assurance that genuine believers, given to Christ by the Father, cannot ultimately be lost despite external pressures or internal failures.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's fulfillment of His own words demonstrate His deity and trustworthiness?
2. What comfort does the doctrine of Christ's preservation provide in times of spiritual struggle or persecution?
3. How do we reconcile the security of believers with warnings against apostasy in Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ἵνα πληρωθῇ ὁ λόγος οὓς εἶπεν ὅτι οὓς
That might be fulfilled the saying which he spoke which
G2443 G4137 G3588 G3056 G3739 G2036 G3754 G3739

δέδωκάς μοι οὐκ ἀπώλεσα ἐξ αὐτῶν οὐδένα
thou gavest me have I lost Of them none
G1325 G3427 G3756 G622 G1537 G846 G3762

Additional Cross-References

John 17:12 (Parallel theme): While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

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