

John 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!

Analysis

It was the preparation of the passover (ἥν δὲ παρασκευὴ τοῦ πάσχα/ēn de paraskeuē tou pascha)—Jesus is sentenced exactly when Passover lambs were being prepared for slaughter. The timing is divinely orchestrated: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us (1 Corinthians 5:7). **About the sixth hour**—John uses Roman time (6 AM), when temple priests began Passover preparations, though some see this as 12 noon.

Pilate's final, bitter taunt: **Behold your King!** ("Ιδε ὁ βασιλεὺς ὑμῶν/Ide ho basileus hymōn). He presents the thorn-crowned, scourged, purple-robed Jesus in savage mockery—"This is your king?" Yet Pilate's sarcasm becomes prophetic truth. This bruised, bleeding figure IS their king, though they won't acknowledge it. The rejection is now complete: 'We have no king but Caesar' (v.15)—renouncing messianic hope, covenant identity, everything distinctive about Israel.

Historical Context

Passover commemorated Israel's deliverance from Egypt when the lamb's blood protected from judgment (Exodus 12). For centuries, faithful Jews had slain Passover lambs looking forward to God's ultimate deliverance. Now the true Lamb stands condemned at the very hour Passover lambs are being selected for sacrifice. The entire sacrificial system pointed to this moment.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the precise timing of Jesus's condemnation during Passover preparation reveal God's sovereignty over history?
2. What does Israel's cry 'We have no king but Caesar' reveal about the final state of a heart that rejects God's rule?
3. In what ways do we present Jesus mockingly before the world while He remains King regardless of our acknowledgment?

Interlinear Text

ἡν δὲ παρασκευὴ τοῦ πάσχα ὥρα δὲ ὡσεὶ¹
it was And the preparation G3588 of the passover hour And about
G2258 G1161 G3904 G3957 G5610 G1161 G5616

ἔκτη καὶ λέγει τοῖς Ἰουδαίοις Ἰδε ὁ βασιλεὺς²
the sixth and he saith G3588 unto the Jews G1492 G3588 King
G1623 G2532 G3004 G2453 G935

ὑμῶν
your
G5216

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:62 (Parallel theme): Now the next day, that followed the day of the preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate,

John 19:5 (Parallel theme): Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

Mark 15:25 (Parallel theme): And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

John 19:42 (Parallel theme): There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day; for the sepulchre was nigh at hand.

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