

# John 19:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

## Analysis

**They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots.** The soldiers' decision to gamble rather than tear the seamless tunic fulfills Psalm 22:18 with remarkable precision. That messianic psalm, written 1,000 years before crucifixion was invented, predicted both the dividing of garments AND the casting of lots for clothing.

The phrase ἵνα ἡ γραφὴ πληρωθῇ (hina hē graphē plērōthē, 'that the scripture might be fulfilled') is John's recurring formula (12:38, 13:18, 15:25, 17:12, 19:28, 19:36). The purpose clause emphasizes divine orchestration—even the casual gambling of pagan soldiers accomplishes God's prophetic word. They act freely, with their own motives (greed), yet fulfill Scripture exactly.

The double fulfillment—dividing AND casting lots—shows biblical prophecy's precision. The soldiers didn't study Psalm 22 and deliberately enact it; they followed crucifixion custom unknowingly. Yet they fulfilled two distinct predictions in one event. This vindicates Jesus as Messiah and Scripture as divinely inspired. Every detail of redemption unfolds according to God's eternal decree.

## Historical Context

---

Psalm 22, written by David circa 1000 BC, contains numerous crucifixion details: pierced hands and feet (v.16), bones out of joint (v.14), intense thirst (v.15), public mockery (v.7-8), and this dividing of garments. Crucifixion as execution method wasn't invented until the Persians developed it around 500 BC and Romans adopted it centuries later. David's psalm is thus prophetic, not experiential.

Roman soldiers regularly gambled, particularly with dice (tesserae). Lots could be cast using dice, marked pottery shards, or stones. The winner claimed the seamless tunic—a valuable prize worth more intact than torn into pieces. Their practical decision served transcendent purposes.

## Related Passages

---

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the precise fulfillment of detailed prophecy strengthen confidence in Scripture's divine origin?
2. What does it reveal about God's sovereignty that pagan soldiers unknowingly fulfilled Scripture through ordinary greed?
3. How should the doctrine of divine providence affect our view of seemingly random or unjust events?

## Interlinear Text

---

|                      |                           |                   |                   |                    |                     |                     |              |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| εἶπον                | οὖν                       | πρὸς              | ἀλλήλους          | Μὴ                 | σχίσωμεν            | αὐτοῦ               |              |
| <b>They said</b>     | <b>therefore</b>          | <b>among</b>      | <b>themselves</b> | <b>not</b>         | <b>Let us</b>       | <b>it</b>           |              |
| G2036                | G3767                     | G4314             | G240              | G3361              | G4977               | G846                |              |
| ἀλλὰ                 | λάχωμεν                   | περὶ              | αὐτοῦ             | τίνος              | ἔσται·              | ἵνα                 | Οἱ           |
| <b>but</b>           | <b>cast lots</b>          | <b>for</b>        | <b>it</b>         | <b>whose</b>       | <b>it shall be</b>  | <b>that</b>         | <b>which</b> |
| G235                 | G2975                     | G4012             | G846              | G5101              | G2071               | G2443               | G3588        |
| γραφῇ                | πληρωθῇ                   | Οἱ                | λέγουσα·          | Διμερίσαντο        | Οἱ                  |                     |              |
| <b>the scripture</b> | <b>might be fulfilled</b> | <b>which</b>      | <b>saith</b>      | <b>They parted</b> | <b>which</b>        |                     |              |
| G1124                | G4137                     | G3588             | G3004             | G1266              | G3588               |                     |              |
| ἱμάτιά               | μου                       | ἐαυτοῖς           | καὶ               | ἐπὶ                | Οἱ                  | ἱματισμόν           | μου          |
| <b>raiment</b>       | <b>my</b>                 | <b>among them</b> | <b>and</b>        | <b>for</b>         | <b>which</b>        | <b>vesture</b>      | <b>my</b>    |
| G2440                | G3450                     | G1438             | G2532             | G1909              | G3588               | G2441               | G3450        |
| ἔβαλον               | κλῆρον                    | Οἱ                | μὲν               | οὖν                | στρατιῶται          | ταῦτα               |              |
| <b>they did cast</b> | <b>lots</b>               | <b>which</b>      | G3303             | <b>therefore</b>   | <b>the soldiers</b> | <b>These things</b> |              |
| G906                 | G2819                     | G3588             |                   | G3767              | G4757               | G5023               |              |
| ἐποίησαν             |                           |                   |                   |                    |                     |                     |              |
| <b>did</b>           |                           |                   |                   |                    |                     |                     |              |
| G4160                |                           |                   |                   |                    |                     |                     |              |

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Psalms 22:18** (Parallel theme): They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

**John 19:28** (Word): After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.