

John 19:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

Analysis

For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken (ἐγένετο γὰρ ταῦτα ἵνα ἡ γραφή πληρωθῇ· Ὅστοῦν οὐ συντριβήσεται αὐτοῦ, egeneto gar tauta hina hē graphē plērōthē· Ostoun ou syntribēsetai autou)—John identifies prophecy fulfillment. The phrase ἵνα ἡ γραφή πληρωθῇ (hina hē graphē plērōthē, 'that the Scripture might be fulfilled') indicates divine design, not coincidence. **A bone of him shall not be broken** (Ὅστοῦν οὐ συντριβήσεται, Ostoun ou syntribēsetai) quotes Exodus 12:46 and Psalm 34:20. The Passover lamb regulations required bones remain intact; David's psalm about God's protection found ultimate fulfillment in Christ.

This typological fulfillment demonstrates Scripture's unity and divine inspiration. The Passover lamb pointed forward to Christ (1 Corinthians 5:7); what seemed mere ritual detail revealed Messianic prophecy. Jesus is the true Passover Lamb whose sacrifice delivers from death's angel, whose blood marks God's people for salvation.

Historical Context

Passover lambs were slaughtered on 14 Nisan (Exodus 12:6), eaten without broken bones. Jesus died as the Passover lambs were being sacrificed in the temple—the ultimate Lamb replacing all others. The coincidence of timing, prophecy, and fulfillment demonstrates divine orchestration spanning 1500 years from Moses to Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does typological fulfillment—Passover lamb to Christ—demonstrate the Bible's divine inspiration and unity?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is our Passover Lamb—how does His sacrifice parallel and fulfill Exodus 12?
3. How should Christians read Old Testament Law and ritual in light of Christ's fulfillment?

Interlinear Text

ἐγένετο	γὰρ	ταῦτα	ἵνα	ἡ	γραφὴ	πληρωθῇ
were done	For	these things	that	G3588	the scripture	should be fulfilled
G1096	G1063	G5023	G2443		G1124	G4137
Ὅστοῦν	οὐ	συντριβήσεται	αὐτοῦ			
A bone	not	be broken	of him			
G3747	G3756	G4937	G846			

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 34:20 (Parallel theme): He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.

Numbers 9:12 (Parallel theme): They shall leave none of it unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it.

Exodus 12:46 (Parallel theme): In one house shall it be eaten; thou shalt not carry forth ought of the flesh abroad out of the house; neither shall ye break a bone thereof.

Psalms 22:14 (Parallel theme): I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

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