

John 19:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

Analysis

And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced (καὶ πάλιν ἔτέρα γραφὴ λέγει· Ὁψονται εἰς ὃν ἐξεκέντησαν, kai palin hetera graphē legei· Opsontai eis hon exekentēsan)—John cites Zechariah 12:10. The verb Ὁψονται (opsontai, 'they shall look, gaze upon') combined with ἐξεκέντησαν (exekentēsan, 'they pierced') describes the spear thrust (19:34) but points beyond to eschatological fulfillment. Zechariah's prophecy has dual fulfillment: historical (the crucifixion) and future (Christ's second coming when all will see the One they pierced, Revelation 1:7).

This prophecy carries both judgment and grace. Those who 'pierced' Him—representing all sinners whose sins nailed Him there—will 'look upon' Him either in saving faith or condemning judgment. The same wounded Christ is both Savior and Judge. Zechariah 12:10 continues: 'they shall mourn for him'—mourning in repentance (Second Coming) or mourning in terror (final judgment).

Historical Context

Zechariah prophesied around 520-518 BC, 550 years before crucifixion was even invented by Phoenicians and adopted by Romans. The specific detail of 'piercing' (רָקַע, daqar in Hebrew; ἐκκεντέω, ekkenteo in Greek) rather than generic 'killing' demonstrates prophetic precision only explicable by divine inspiration.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Zechariah's 'piercing' prophecy demonstrate supernatural foreknowledge of crucifixion method 550 years before its invention?
2. What does it mean that all will 'look upon' the One they pierced—how does this apply both at conversion and final judgment?
3. How should recognition that our sins 'pierced' Christ shape our understanding of personal accountability for His death?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πάλιν	έτέρα	γραφὴ	λέγει	Ὥψονται	εἰς	ὅν
And	again	another	scripture	saith	They shall look	on	him whom
G2532	G3825	G2087	G1124	G3004	G3700	G1519	G3739

ἐξεκέντησαν

they pierced

G1574

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 12:10 (Parallel theme): And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

