

John 19:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!

Analysis

Pilate presents the scourged, mocked, thorn-crowned Christ with 'Behold the man'—words dripping with irony. Pilate means to evoke pity (this broken man is no threat), but John intends deeper meaning: this IS the Man, the Second Adam, the Son of Man, bearing humanity's sin and shame. The crown of thorns reverses Eden's curse (Genesis 3:18). Christ's humiliation is His glorification—through suffering He redeems.

Historical Context

Roman scourging was brutal, often fatal. The purple robe and crown mocked Jesus' kingship claims. Pilate hoped the Jews would be satisfied by Jesus' humiliation, but they demanded crucifixion (v. 6), proving their hatred.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does seeing Christ's willingness to endure such suffering and shame affect your love for Him?

2. What does Christ's silent endurance teach about responding to unjust treatment?

Interlinear Text

ἐξῆλθεν οὖν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἔξω φορῶν τὸν ἀκάνθινον
came Then G3588 Jesus forth wearing G3588 of thorns
G1831 G3767 G2424 G1854 G5409 G174

στέφανον καὶ τὸ πορφυροῦν ἱμάτιον καὶ λέγει
the crown And G3588 the purple robe And Pilate saith
G4735 G2532 G4210 G2440 G2532 G3004

αὐτοῖς Ἰδε ὁ ἄνθρωπος
unto them G1492 G3588 the man
G846 G444

Additional Cross-References

John 19:2 (Parallel theme): And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,

Hebrews 12:2 (References Jesus): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 7:14 (Parallel theme): Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 40:9 (Parallel theme): O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

John 1:29 (References Jesus): The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.