

John 2:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Analysis

The disciples remember Psalm 69:9: 'The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.' This messianic psalm describes the Righteous Sufferer's experience. Jesus' consuming passion for the temple's purity reflects divine zeal. The verb 'eaten up' (katephagen) suggests consuming fire—jealous love that cannot tolerate corruption of what is sacred. This zeal will ultimately contribute to His death as religious leaders plot against Him.

Historical Context

Psalm 69 is frequently quoted as messianic in the New Testament (verses 4, 9, 21, 22, 25). The disciples' recognition of Jesus' actions as fulfillment shows early christological interpretation of Scripture. This connection was likely made after the resurrection (John 2:22) when they understood more fully.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does godly zeal differ from destructive anger or self-righteous judgment?
2. What does the Psalm 69 connection teach about Jesus' identity and mission?

Interlinear Text

Ἐμνήσθησαν	δὲ	οἱ	μαθηταὶ	αὐτοῦ	ὅτι	γεγραμμένον
remembered	And	disciples	his	that	written	
G3415	G1161	G3588 G3101	G846	G3754	G1125	
ἐστίν	Ὁ	ζήλος	τοῦ	οἴκου	σου	κατέφαγεν με
it was	The zeal	house	of thine	hath eaten	me	
G2076	G3588 G2205	G3588 G3624	G4675	G2719	G3165	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 69:9 (Parallel theme): For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Psalms 119:139 (Parallel theme): My zeal hath consumed me, because mine enemies have forgotten thy words.