

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 G3588 disciples his that written
G3415 G1161 G3101 G846 G3754 G1125

ἐστίν οὐ ζῆλος τοῦ οἴκου σου κατέφαγεν με
it was G3588 The zeal G3588 house of thine hath eaten me
G2076 G2205 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.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org