

John 3:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For John was not yet cast into prison.

Analysis

This parenthetical note anticipates John's imprisonment (recorded in the Synoptics), creating dramatic irony. John's faithful witness will soon lead to suffering, illustrating the cost of prophetic ministry. The Reformed tradition affirms that suffering for Christ is normative, not exceptional, in the Christian life.

Historical Context

Herod Antipas imprisoned John (c. 28-29 AD) for denouncing his marriage to Herodias, his brother's wife (Mark 6:17-18). John's imprisonment marked a transition point in Jesus' ministry, as He moved from Judea to Galilee.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does knowing that faithfulness may lead to suffering affect our commitment to truth-telling?
2. What does John's trajectory from prominence to imprisonment teach about the nature of faithful service?

Interlinear Text

οὐπω	γὰρ	ἦν	βεβλημένος	εἰς	τὴν	φυλακὴν	ὁ
not yet	For	was	cast	into	G3588	prison	G3588
G3768	G1063	G2258	G906	G1519		G5438	

Ἰωάννης

John
G2491

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 4:12 (References John): Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;

Matthew 14:3 (References John): For Herod had laid hold on John, and bound him, and put him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife.

Mark 6:17 (References John): For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John, and bound him in prison for Herodias' sake, his brother Philip's wife: for he had married her.