

John 7:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The people answered and said, Thou hast a devil: who goeth about to kill thee?

Analysis

Despite teaching publicly in the temple treasury where arrests could easily occur, no one seized Jesus because 'his hour was not yet come.' This demonstrates divine sovereignty over all circumstances, including the timing of Christ's death. Reformed theology emphasizes God's providence - all events, even hostile opposition, serve God's redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

The temple treasury was heavily guarded with temple police nearby. That Jesus taught openly there yet remained free illustrates divine protection until the appointed time.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign timing provide confidence in difficult circumstances?
2. When have you seen God's providence protecting you from harm?

3. What does Christ's fearless teaching despite threats model for believers?

Interlinear Text

ἀπεκρίθη ὁ ὄχλος καὶ εἶπεν Δαιμόνιον ἔχεις· τίς
answered G3588 The people and said a devil Thou hast who
G611 G3793 G2532 G2036 G1140 G2192 G5101

σε ζητεῖ ἀποκτεῖναι
thee goeth about to kill
G4571 G2212 G615

Additional Cross-References

John 10:20 (Evil): And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

John 8:48 (Evil): Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?

John 8:52 (Evil): Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

Mark 3:30 (Parallel theme): Because they said, He hath an unclean spirit.