

John 7:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come.

Analysis

Then they sought to take him: but no man laid hands on him, because his hour was not yet come. Jesus's claims provoke hostile response—'they sought to take him' (εζήτουν...πιασαί). Yet 'no man laid hands on him' (οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ' αὐτὸν τὴν χειρα) despite intent. The reason: 'his hour was not yet come' (ὅτι οὐπότελεν ηὕρη αὐτού). God's sovereign protection prevented premature arrest. Jesus would be taken only at the appointed time. Reformed theology emphasizes divine providence—God's purposes cannot be thwarted.

Historical Context

This is the third mention of Jesus's 'hour' in John (2:4, 7:6, 7:30). The hour is His appointed time for crucifixion and glorification. Until that hour, Jesus was invulnerable despite repeated attempts (John 8:59, 10:31, 10:39). When the hour came, He willingly surrendered (John 18:4-8). This demonstrates Jesus wasn't victim but willing sacrifice at the precise moment ordained by God.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's sovereign timing protect His servants?
2. What does Jesus's control over His 'hour' teach about providence?
3. How should understanding God's timing affect our courage in ministry?

Interlinear Text

Ἐζήτουν οὖν αὐτοῦ πιάσαι καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐπέβαλεν ἐπ'
they sought Then him to take but no man laid on
G2212 G3767 G846 G4084 G2532 G3762 G1911 G1909

αὐτοῦ τὴν χεῖρα ὅτι οὔπω ἐληλύθει ἡ ὥρα αὐτοῦ
him hands because not yet come hour him
G846 G3588 G5495 G3754 G3768 G2064 G5610 G846

Additional Cross-References

John 8:20 (Parallel theme): These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

John 10:39 (Parallel theme): Therefore they sought again to take him: but he escaped out of their hand,

John 7:6 (Parallel theme): Then Jesus said unto them, My time is not yet come: but your time is alway ready.

John 7:32 (Parallel theme): The Pharisees heard that the people murmured such things concerning him; and the Pharisees and the chief priests sent officers to take him.