

Luke 18:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then he took unto him the twelve, and said unto them, Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished.

Analysis

Behold, we go up to Jerusalem (ἰδοὺ ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ, idou anabainomen eis Ierousalēm)—This is Jesus's third and most detailed passion prediction in Luke. The present tense anabainomen (we are going up) conveys both immediacy and inevitability. Jerusalem sits at 2,500 feet elevation; 'going up' was literal, but also theological—the city where prophets die (13:33).

All things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of man shall be accomplished (τελεσθήσεται πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα, telesthēsetai panta ta gegramma) —the future passive telesthēsetai (will be fulfilled/completed) appears in John 19:30 as Jesus's final word ('It is finished'). This isn't tragedy but divine purpose: Isaiah 53's suffering servant, Psalm 22's forsaken one, Zechariah 12:10's pierced one. Jesus controls the narrative by predicting it, demonstrating His mission isn't derailed by suffering but fulfilled through it.

Historical Context

Written during Luke's composition (c. AD 60-80), this prediction would resonate with readers who knew the crucifixion's outcome. The journey to Jerusalem dominates Luke 9:51-19:27—Jesus walks deliberately toward the cross, teaching disciples about suffering's necessity for both Messiah and followers.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's foreknowledge of His suffering demonstrate both His divinity and His voluntary sacrifice?
2. Which specific Old Testament prophecies does this verse invoke, and how does their fulfillment validate Scripture's reliability?
3. What does Jesus's determination to go to Jerusalem despite knowing the outcome teach about obedience to God's will?

Interlinear Text

Παραλαβὼν δὲ τοὺς δώδεκα εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς
he took Then G3588 unto him the twelve and said unto them
G3880 G1161 G1427 G2036 G4314 G846

Ἰδού, ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα καὶ τελεσθήσεται
Behold we go up to Jerusalem and shall be accomplished
G2400 G305 G1519 G2414 G2532 G5055

πάντα τὰ γεγραμμένα διὰ τῶν προφητῶν τῷ
all things G3588 that are written by the prophets G3588
G3956 G1125 G1223 G4396

υἱῷ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου·
concerning the Son of man
G5207 G3588 G444

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:21 (References Jerusalem): From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Zechariah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

Luke 9:51 (References Jerusalem): And it came to pass, when the time was come that he should be received up, he stedfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem,

Luke 9:22 (Parallel theme): Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Daniel 9:26 (Parallel theme): And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

Mark 8:9 (Parallel theme): And they that had eaten were about four thousand: and he sent them away.
