

Luke 22:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors: for the things concerning me have an end.

Analysis

This that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors—Jesus quotes Isaiah 53:12, identifying Himself as the Suffering Servant who would be **numbered with transgressors** (μετὰ ἀνόμων ἔλογισθη, meta anomon elogisthe). The cross would place Jesus literally between criminals (Luke 23:32-33), fulfilling Scripture's prophecy that Messiah would be counted as a sinner though sinless.

For the things concerning me have an end (τέλος, telos)—not termination but fulfillment, completion. Jesus's earthly messianic work was reaching its climax in the cross. All Old Testament prophecies, types, and shadows found their consummation in His atoning death. The Greek telos means goal or purpose achieved, not merely cessation. The cross wasn't tragedy but triumph—the predetermined plan of redemption reaching fruition.

Historical Context

Isaiah 53 was largely ignored by first-century Jewish messianic interpretation, which focused on conquering king imagery. Jesus consistently corrected this misunderstanding by identifying Himself with the Suffering Servant. His crucifixion between thieves visually demonstrated Isaiah's prophecy: the Holy One of Israel legally reckoned as criminal, bearing the sins of transgressors through substitutionary atonement.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's identification with transgressors at the cross demonstrate the doctrine of imputation—our sin reckoned to Him, His righteousness reckoned to us?
2. What Old Testament prophecies or types reached their telos (fulfillment) in Christ's death and resurrection?
3. How should the certainty that God's redemptive plan reaches its appointed end affect your trust when circumstances seem chaotic or evil appears to triumph?

Interlinear Text

λέγω	γὰρ	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	ἔτι	τοῦτο	τὸ	γεγραμμένον	δεῖ
I say	For	unto you	that	yet	this	G3588	that is written	must
G3004	G1063	G5213	G3754	G2089	G5124		G1125	G1163

τελεσθῆναι	ἐν	ἐμοί	τὸ	καὶ	μετὰ	ἀνόμων
be accomplished	in	me	G3588	And	among	the transgressors
G5055	G1722	G1698		G2532	G3326	G459

ἐλογίσθη·	καὶ	γὰρ	τὰ	περὶ	ἐμοῦ	τέλος	ἔχει
he was reckoned	And	For	G3588	the things concerning	me	an end	have
G3049	G2532	G1063		G4012	G1700	G5056	G2192

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 53:12 (Parallel theme): Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul

unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (Parallel theme): For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

Luke 23:32 (Parallel theme): And there were also two other, malefactors, led with him to be put to death.

Galatians 3:13 (Parallel theme): Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

John 17:4 (Parallel theme): I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.

John 10:35 (Parallel theme): If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

Luke 22:22 (Parallel theme): And truly the Son of man goeth, as it was determined: but woe unto that man by whom he is betrayed!

Luke 18:31 (Parallel theme): 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.