

Luke 22:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Analysis

Gethsemane agony: 'And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.' Jesus experienced 'agony' (ἀγωνία, agōnia), anguished struggle. He 'prayed more earnestly' (ἐκτενέστερον προσηγένετο, ektenesteron prosēucheto, more intensely/fervently). The physical manifestation: 'his sweat was as it were great drops of blood' (ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ αἷμα θρόμβοις, egeneto ho hidrōs autou hōsei thromboi haimatos). This describes hematidrosis, a rare medical condition where extreme stress causes capillaries to rupture, mixing blood with sweat. The description emphasizes Christ's intense suffering in contemplating the cross—not primarily physical torture but bearing sin's full weight and Father's wrath.

Historical Context

Jesus' Gethsemane suffering reveals the cross's horror. He wasn't afraid of physical pain (many martyrs faced death courageously), but of bearing sin and experiencing separation from the Father. Isaiah 53:10 says 'it pleased the LORD to bruise him,' putting Him to grief as a sin offering. Jesus would become sin for us (2 Corinthians 5:21), experiencing the Father's wrath we deserved. This prospect caused such agony that He sweat blood. The Father heard His prayer (Hebrews 5:7) but didn't remove the cup—salvation required Jesus' sacrificial death. This passage refutes any suggestion that Jesus' suffering was merely physical. The spiritual anguish of

bearing sin and experiencing divine abandonment (Matthew 27:46) exceeded any physical torture.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What caused Jesus' agony in Gethsemane—fear of physical suffering or something deeper?
2. What does Jesus sweating blood reveal about the intensity of His spiritual suffering?
3. How does Jesus' willing acceptance of this suffering demonstrate His love for sinners?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἐγένετο ἐν ἀγωνίᾳ ἐκτενέστερον προσηύχετο·
And being in an agony more earnestly he prayed
G2532 G1096 G1722 G74 G1617 G4336

ἐγένετο δὲ ὁ ιδρὼς αὐτοῦ ὡσεὶ θρόμβοι αἷματος
being and G3588 sweat his as it were great drops of blood
G1096 G1161 G2402 G846 G5616 G2361 G129

καταβαίνοντες ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν
falling down to G3588 the ground
G2597 G1909 G1093

Additional Cross-References

Lamentations 1:12 (Parallel theme): Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

Hebrews 5:7 (Prayer): Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

Isaiah 53:10 (Parallel theme): Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

Romans 8:32 (Parallel theme): He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

John 12:27 (Parallel theme): Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.
