

Luke 23:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate.

Analysis

And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate—The Sanhedrin's night trial concludes with a unanimous verdict of blasphemy (22:71), but they lack authority to execute capital punishment under Roman occupation (John 18:31). The phrase **the whole multitude** (ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος, hapan to plēthos) emphasizes the corporate guilt of Israel's leadership in delivering their Messiah to Gentile crucifixion—fulfilling Jesus's prediction that he would be 'delivered unto the Gentiles' (18:32).

This transfer from Jewish to Roman jurisdiction marks a pivotal moment: the religious charge of blasphemy must be reframed as political sedition to secure Roman execution. Luke's narrative carefully documents the legal proceedings, demonstrating both the illegitimacy of the trials and the fulfillment of prophetic Scripture (Isaiah 53:8, Psalm 2:1-2). The verb **led** (ἡγαγον, ēgagon) portrays Jesus as the silent Suffering Servant 'led as a lamb to the slaughter' (Isaiah 53:7).

Historical Context

Pontius Pilate served as Roman prefect of Judea (AD 26-36) and alone possessed ius gladii (the right of the sword)—capital jurisdiction. The Sanhedrin's early morning assembly (Luke 22:66) allowed them to bring Jesus before Pilate at dawn when Roman officials conducted business. This scene occurs during Passover week (c. AD 30 or 33) when Jerusalem swelled with pilgrims and Roman authorities were especially vigilant against unrest.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does the religious leaders' need for Roman approval expose both their political powerlessness and their moral bankruptcy?
2. What does Jesus's silence before his accusers teach us about responding to false charges and unjust persecution?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ἀναστὰν	ἅπαν	τὸ	πλῆθος	αὐτὸν	ἤγαγεν	αὐτὸν
And	arose	the whole	G3588	multitude	him	and led	him
G2532	G450	G537		G4128	G846	G71	G846

ἐπὶ	τὸν	Πιλάτου
unto	G3588	Pilate
G1909		G4091

Additional Cross-References

Luke 22:66 (Parallel theme): And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying,