

Luke 24:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And how the chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death, and have crucified him.

Analysis

The chief priests and our rulers delivered him to be condemned to death (παρέδωκαν αὐτὸν... εἰς κρίμα θανάτου, paredōkan auton... eis krima thanatou)—The verb *paradidōmi* (delivered/handed over) carries profound theological weight throughout the Passion narrative. The same word describes Judas's betrayal (22:48), the Father's sovereignty (Acts 2:23), and Christ's self-offering (Galatians 2:20).

Our rulers (οἱ ἀρχοντες ἡμῶν, hoi archontes hēmōn) indicts the Sanhedrin leadership, yet the possessive 'our' reveals the disciples' continuing Jewish identity and communal grief. They witnessed their own religious establishment—those expected to recognize Messiah—orchestrate His execution. The passive construction **to be condemned** acknowledges Roman complicity while emphasizing Jewish initiative, fulfilling Jesus' prediction (18:31-33).

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin lacked authority to execute capital punishment under Roman occupation (John 18:31), necessitating Pilate's involvement. Crucifixion was a Roman method; Jewish execution was stoning. This collaboration between religious and political powers fulfilled Psalm 2:2—'the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and his Anointed.'

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the disciples' phrase 'our rulers' reflect the painful betrayal of spiritual leadership?
2. What does the passive voice 'delivered him' suggest about God's sovereignty in Christ's crucifixion?
3. How should believers respond when religious authorities contradict Scripture?

Interlinear Text

ὅπως	τε	παρέδωκαν	αὐτόν	οἱ	ἀρχιερεῖς	καὶ	οἱ
And how	G5037	delivered him	him	G3588	the chief priests	and	G3588
G3704		G3860	G846		G749	G2532	
ἀρχοντες	ἡμῶν	εἰς	κρίμα	θανάτου	καὶ	έσταύρωσαν	
rulers	our	to	be condemned	to death	and	have crucified	
G758	G2257	G1519	G2917	G2288	G2532	G4717	
αὐτόν							
him							
G846							

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 27:20 (Parallel theme): But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus.

Luke 23:13 (Parallel theme): And Pilate, when he had called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people,

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org