

Luke 24:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.

Analysis

Shattered hopes: 'But we trusted that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel: and beside all this, to day is the third day since these things were done.' Cleopas expresses their disappointment: 'we trusted' (ἡμεῖς ἡλπίζομεν, hēmeis ēlpizomen, imperfect tense—we were hoping, but no longer) 'that it had been he which should have redeemed Israel' (ὅτι αὐτός ἐστιν ὁ μέλλων λυτροῦσθαι τὸν Ἰσραὴλ, hoti autos estin ho mellōn lytrousthai ton Israēl). They expected political liberation from Rome; instead Jesus died. The phrase 'beside all this, to day is the third day' indicates they remembered Jesus' prediction but didn't understand it. Their hopes were crushed because they misunderstood Jesus' mission—He came to redeem from sin, not Rome.

Historical Context

The disciples' confession reveals how Jewish messianic expectations shaped and limited their understanding. They wanted national liberation; Jesus offered spiritual salvation. They expected political kingdom; Jesus brought spiritual kingdom. They hoped for immediate glory; Jesus came through suffering to glory. Their misunderstanding was comprehensive—even witnessing resurrection reports (vv. 22-24), they couldn't process them because their paradigm was wrong. Jesus' subsequent Scripture exposition (vv. 25-27) corrected their theology, showing that Christ must suffer before glory. This pattern repeats: humans want earthly

deliverance; God offers eternal salvation. We crave comfort; God promises glory through suffering. Our expectations must align with Scripture's revelation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How did political messianic expectations blind the disciples to Jesus' true mission?
2. What does their inability to process resurrection despite reports teach about paradigms shaping perception?
3. How might contemporary Christians similarly misunderstand Jesus' purposes by projecting their expectations onto Him?

Interlinear Text

ἡμεῖς δὲ ἡλπίζομεν ὅτι αὐτός ἐστιν ὁ μέλλων
we But trusted that he it had been G3588 which should
G2249 G1161 G1679 G3754 G846 G2076 G3195

λυτροῦσθαι τὸν Ἰσραὴλ ἀλλά γε σὺν πᾶσιν τούτοις
have redeemed G3588 Israel and beside G4862 all this
G3084 G2474 G235 G1065 G3956 G5125

τρίτην ταύτην ἡμέραν ἄγει σήμερον, ἀφ' οὗ ταῦτα
third the day is to day since G3739 these things
G5154 G5026 G2250 G71 G4594 G575 G5023

ἐγένετο

were done

G1096

Additional Cross-References

Luke 1:68 (Redemption): Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

Isaiah 59:20 (Redemption): And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

Luke 2:38 (Redemption): And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

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