

Luke 24:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

Analysis

Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

This profound question comes from the risen Jesus Himself on the road to Emmaus, revealing the divine necessity of the cross. The Greek word *edei* (ἔδει, "ought") expresses not mere appropriateness but theological necessity—the suffering of the Messiah was essential to God's redemptive plan, not an unfortunate accident or tragic mistake.

"To have suffered" (*pathein*, παθεῖν) encompasses the full scope of Christ's passion: betrayal, mockery, scourging, crucifixion, and death. The definite article "these things" (*tauta*, ταῦτα) refers to the specific sufferings just discussed—pointing to the detailed Old Testament prophecies the disciples should have recognized. The phrase "to enter into his glory" (*eiselthein eis tēn doxan autou*, εἰσελθεῖν εἰς τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ) reveals that suffering was the divinely appointed pathway to exaltation.

This verse establishes the pattern of biblical theology: suffering precedes glory, cross before crown, death before resurrection. Jesus corrects the disciples' mistaken expectation of a conquering Messiah who would bypass suffering. The resurrection demonstrates that God's plan was not thwarted but perfectly fulfilled through apparent defeat.

Historical Context

This conversation occurred on resurrection Sunday, as two disciples walked from Jerusalem to Emmaus (about seven miles). They had witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and heard reports of His resurrection but struggled to comprehend these events. Their hopes for political messianic deliverance had been crushed by the cross, revealing a fundamental misunderstanding of Old Testament prophecy.

First-century Jewish messianic expectations generally focused on a conquering king who would overthrow Roman oppression and restore Davidic sovereignty. Most interpretations overlooked or spiritualized prophetic texts about the Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53), the pierced one (Zechariah 12:10), and Psalm 22's crucifixion imagery. The disciples' confusion reflects this broader theological blind spot.

Jesus' gentle rebuke and subsequent Scripture exposition (verses 25-27) corrected their misunderstanding by showing how Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms all predicted Messiah's suffering. This post-resurrection teaching became foundational for apostolic preaching, as seen in Peter's Pentecost sermon (Acts 2:23-24) and Paul's letters emphasizing Christ's necessary suffering (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. Why do we often resist the biblical principle that suffering precedes glory in the Christian life?
2. How does understanding Christ's necessary suffering change our view of our own trials?

3. What Old Testament passages point to the Messiah's suffering that we might overlook?
4. How does this verse challenge prosperity theology and triumphalist Christianity?
5. In what ways do we still misunderstand God's purposes when we face unexpected suffering?

Interlinear Text

οὐχὶ	ταῦτα	ἔδει	παθεῖν	τὸν	Χριστὸν	καὶ
not	these things	Ought	to have suffered	G3588	Christ	and
G3780	G5023	G1163	G3958		G5547	G2532
εἰσελθεῖν	εἰς	τὴν	δόξαν	αὐτοῦ		
to enter	into	G3588	glory	G846		
G1525	G1519		G1391			

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

1 Peter 1:11 (Glory): Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Hebrews 12:2 (Parallel theme): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 17:3 (References Christ): Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

Luke 24:46 (References Christ): And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

