

Luke 24:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

Analysis

Jesus is recognized: 'And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight' (αὐτῶν δὲ διηνοίχθησαν οἱ ὄφθαλμοὶ καὶ ἐπέγνωσαν αὐτόν· καὶ αὐτὸς ἄφαντος ἐγένετο ἀπ' αὐτῶν). The passive 'diēnoichthēsan' (διηνοίχθησαν, were opened) indicates divine action—God opened their eyes. The verb 'epiginōskō' (ἐπέγνωσαν, knew/recognized) suggests full recognition. Recognition came during bread-breaking (v.30), possibly echoing the Last Supper or revealing Jesus' distinctive manner. His immediate vanishing (ἄφαντος ἐγένετο, became invisible) demonstrates His resurrection body's unique properties—physical yet not bound by normal physical limitations (cf. v.37, John 20:19, 26).

Historical Context

The Emmaus road story illustrates how resurrection appearances convinced skeptical disciples. These were not hallucinations but physical encounters with the risen Christ (Luke 24:39-43, He ate fish; John 20:27, Thomas touched wounds). Yet His body was transformed—He could appear and disappear, pass through locked doors, travel instantly. Paul later explains resurrection bodies as 'spiritual bodies' (1 Corinthians 15:44)—physical yet glorified, continuous with earthly bodies yet transformed. This event shows that spiritual understanding requires divine illumination, not merely intellectual study.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the divine opening of eyes teach about the necessity of the Holy Spirit's work in spiritual understanding?
2. How does Jesus' resurrection body provide hope and preview of believers' future resurrection bodies?

Interlinear Text

αὐτῶν δὲ διηνοίχθησαν οἱ ὄφθαλμοὶ καὶ ἐπέγνωσαν

he And were opened eyes and they knew

G846

G1161

G1272

G3588

G3788

G2532

G1921

αὐτῶν καὶ αὐτῶν ἀφαντος ἐγένετο ἀπ' αὐτῶν

he and he vanished out of he

G846

G2532

G846

G855

G1096

G575

G846

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:16 (Parallel theme): But their eyes were holden that they should not know him.

John 8:59 (Parallel theme): Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

Luke 4:30 (Parallel theme): But he passing through the midst of them went his way,