

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 ὀφθαλμοὶ 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

Psalms 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 διηνοιχθησαν οἱ ὀφθαλμοὶ καὶ ἐπέγνωσαν
he **And** **were opened** G3588 **eyes** **and** **they knew**
G846 G1161 G1272 G3788 G2532 G1921

αὐτῶν καὶ αὐτῶν ἄφαντος ἐγένετο ἀπ' αὐτῶν
he **and** **he** G855 **vanished** **out of** **he**
G846 G2532 G846 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,