

# Luke 3:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Added yet this above all, that he shut up John in prison.

## Analysis

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Herod's adding imprisonment to 'all' his other evils demonstrates how rejecting truth leads to greater sin. The phrase 'added yet this above all' shows imprisonment of God's prophet exceeded his other wickedness. This demonstrates the progressive nature of sin—rejecting conviction hardens the heart and produces worse evil. Herod's shutting up John in prison attempted to silence truth rather than submit to it. This response models how powerful people often respond to prophetic confrontation—elimination of the prophet rather than repentance. Yet imprisoning John couldn't stop God's purposes; it positioned John to decrease as Jesus increased (John 3:30) and prepared the way for Jesus's public ministry.

## Historical Context

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Herod imprisoned John in Machaerus fortress near the Dead Sea. This imprisonment lasted approximately one year before Herod executed John at Herodias's instigation (Mark 6:14-29). John's imprisonment marked transition from his ministry to Jesus's, demonstrating God's sovereign timing in redemptive history.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does rejecting truth lead to progressive hardening and greater sin?
2. What does Herod's response teach about how powerful people often respond to prophetic confrontation?
3. How did God use John's imprisonment to advance His redemptive purposes?

## Interlinear Text

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προσέθηκεν καὶ τοῦτο ἐπὶ πᾶσιν καὶ κατέκλεισεν τὸν

|              |             |             |              |            |             |                   |       |
|--------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|-------|
| <b>Added</b> | <b>that</b> | <b>this</b> | <b>above</b> | <b>all</b> | <b>that</b> | <b>he shut up</b> |       |
| G4369        | G2532       | G5124       | G1909        | G3956      | G2532       | G2623             | G3588 |

Ἰωάννην ἐν τῇ φυλακῇ

|             |           |               |
|-------------|-----------|---------------|
| <b>John</b> | <b>in</b> | <b>prison</b> |
| G2491       | G1722     | G5438         |

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