

Luke 9:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Analysis

Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things (εἰπὼν ὅτι Δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου πολλὰ παθεῖν, eipōn hoti Dei ton huion tou anthrōpou polla pathein)—The word *dei* (δεῖ, "must, it is necessary") indicates divine necessity, not mere probability. The cross wasn't accidental or Plan B but the eternal purpose of God (Acts 2:23, 4:28). The title "Son of man" comes from Daniel 7:13-14, where the figure receives eternal dominion—but Jesus radically reinterprets this glorious figure as a suffering servant, combining Daniel 7 with Isaiah 53.

And be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes (καὶ ἀποδοκιμασθῆναι ἀπὸ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων καὶ ἀρχιερέων καὶ γραμματέων, kai apodokimasthēnai apo tōn presbyterōn kai archierōn kai grammateōn)—Jesus specifies the agents of rejection: the Sanhedrin's three constituent groups. The verb *apodokimazō* ("reject after examination, declare unfit") suggests official repudiation. The religious establishment, guardians of Israel's faith, will condemn Israel's Messiah—tragic irony. **And be slain, and be raised the third day** (καὶ ἀποκτανθῆναι καὶ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ τρίτῃ ἐγερθῆναι, kai apoktanthēnai kai tē hēmera tē tritē egerthēnai)—The passive voice of "be raised" (egerthēnai) indicates God raises Jesus; the resurrection vindicates the crucified Messiah. The third day fulfills Scripture (Hosea 6:2) and proves Jesus's death accomplished its purpose. This is the first explicit passion prediction in Luke, followed by two more (9:44, 18:31-33). Each grows more detailed as the cross approaches.

Historical Context

The Sanhedrin consisted of three groups: elders (lay aristocracy), chief priests (priestly aristocracy, mostly Sadducees), and scribes (legal experts, mostly Pharisees). These groups rarely agreed, yet they would unite to condemn Jesus (Luke 22:66-71, 23:1). Jesus's prediction was shocking—the Messiah was expected to triumph, not suffer; to judge, not be judged; to reign, not die. Isaiah 53's suffering servant prophecies existed, but most Jews didn't connect them to the Messiah. Jesus's radical synthesis of Davidic king (Psalm 2, 110), Danielic Son of Man (Daniel 7), and Isaianic suffering servant (Isaiah 53) was unprecedented. The disciples couldn't process this (Mark 9:32, Luke 18:34), requiring resurrection to open their understanding (Luke 24:25-27, 44-46).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What does the word 'must' (divine necessity) teach about the cross being God's eternal plan, not a tragic accident or defeated Plan B?
2. How does Jesus's combination of 'Son of man' (glorious Daniel 7 figure) with suffering, rejection, and death redefine messianic expectations?
3. Why was the resurrection essential to vindicate Jesus's death as redemptive rather than merely tragic, and how does the third day fulfill Scripture?

Interlinear Text

εἰπὼν ὅτι Δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου πολλὰ
Saying G3754 must G3588 The Son G3588 of man many things
G2036 G1163 G5207 G444 G4183

παθεῖν καὶ ἀποδοκιμασθῆναι ἀπὸ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων καὶ
suffer and be rejected of G3588 the elders and
G3958 G2532 G593 G575 G4245 G2532

ἀρχιερέων καὶ γραμματέων καὶ ἀποκτανθῆναι καὶ τῇ
chief priests and scribes and be slain and G3588
G749 G2532 G1122 G2532 G615 G2532

τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθῆναι
the third day be raised
G5154 G2250 G1453

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:7 (Resurrection): Saying, The Son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.

Luke 9:44 (Parallel theme): Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

Mark 9:31 (Resurrection): For he taught his disciples, and said unto them, The Son of man is delivered into the hands of men, and they shall kill him; and after that he is killed, he shall rise the third day.

Matthew 17:12 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

1 Peter 1:11 (Parallel theme): 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.

