

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.

