

Luke 9:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

Analysis

But Peter and they that were with him were heavy with sleep: and when they were awake, they saw his glory, and the two men that stood with him.

The disciples were bebarēmenoi hypnō (βεβαρημένοι ὑπνῶ, "weighed down with sleep")—the perfect participle indicates a completed state of drowsiness. This parallels Gethsemane where the same three slept during Jesus' agony (Luke 22:45). The verb diagrēgorēsantes (διαγρηγορήσαντες, "having fully awakened") suggests they fought through drowsiness and became alert enough to witness the glory.

The phrase **they saw his glory** (eidon tēn doxan autou, εἶδον τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ) indicates they perceived the divine radiance and **the two men that stood with him** (τοὺς δύο ἄνδρας τοὺς συνεστῶτας αὐτῷ)—Moses and Elijah in glorified form. Despite their spiritual dullness, they witnessed the revelation. This demonstrates God's grace—even when we are spiritually drowsy, He may grant glimpses of glory that awaken us to reality.

Historical Context

The disciples' sleepiness at crucial spiritual moments (Transfiguration, Gethsemane) illustrates human weakness—flesh cannot sustain prolonged spiritual intensity. Jesus later tells them, "The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Yet God accommodated their frailty. They awakened in time to

see the glory and hear the Father's voice. This encouraged the early church—despite weakness and failure, God grants grace to perceive spiritual truth. Peter later wrote, 'We were eyewitnesses of his majesty' (2 Peter 1:16), referring to this event. The memory sustained him through decades of ministry and ultimately martyrdom.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What causes spiritual drowsiness that makes us dull to perceiving God's glory in moments of revelation?
2. How does God's grace in allowing the disciples to awaken and witness the Transfiguration despite their weakness encourage struggling believers?
3. What parallels exist between the disciples' sleepiness here and at Gethsemane, and what do both reveal about human limitation in spiritual crisis?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	δὲ	Πέτρος	καὶ	οἱ	σὺν	αὐτῷ	ἦσαν
G3588	But	Peter	and	G3588	they that were with	him	were
	G1161	G4074	G2532		G4862	G846	G2258
βεβαρημένοι	ὑπνώ·	διαγρηγορήσαντες	δὲ	εἶδον	τὴν		
heavy	with sleep	when they were awake	But	they saw		G3588	
G916	G5258	G1235	G1161	G1492			
δόξαν	αὐτῷ	καὶ	τοὺς	δύο	ἄνδρας	τοὺς	συνεστῶτας
glory	him	and	G3588	the two	men	G3588	that stood with
G1391	G846	G2532		G1417	G435		G4921
αὐτῷ							
him							
G846							

Additional Cross-References

John 1:14 (Glory): And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Daniel 8:18 (Parallel theme): Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

Daniel 10:9 (Parallel theme): Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.

Isaiah 60:19 (Glory): The sun shall be no more thy light by day; neither for brightness shall the moon give light unto thee: but the LORD shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.

2 Peter 1:16 (Parallel theme): For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

John 17:24 (Glory): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

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