

Mark 14:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered.

Analysis

All ye shall be offended because of me this night—Jesus predicts universal desertion using σκανδαλίζω (skandalizō), meaning to cause to stumble or fall away. This wasn't speculation but prophetic certainty. **For it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered** quotes Zechariah 13:7, but with crucial modification: in Zechariah, God commands "smite the shepherd"; Jesus applies this to Himself, identifying as the shepherd whom God will strike.

The passive construction "shall be scattered" (διασκορπισθήσονται, diaskorpisthēsontai) indicates divine sovereignty—the disciples' flight wasn't merely human weakness but part of God's redemptive plan. Yet this prophecy also contains hope: scattered sheep can be regathered, which Jesus promises in verse 28. Peter's confident denial (v. 29) shows how little we understand our capacity for failure apart from grace.

Historical Context

Zechariah 13:7-9 prophesies a messianic refining through judgment. First-century rabbis debated whether Messiah would suffer; Jesus resolves this by applying suffering-servant texts to Himself. The disciples' desertion fulfilled prophecy while also demonstrating the humanity of those who would later become Spirit-empowered apostles.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' use of Zechariah 13:7 demonstrate that His death was God's plan, not human accident?
2. What comfort does verse 28's promise provide when you experience spiritual failure?
3. Why does God sometimes allow His people to experience failure before empowering them for ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι Πάντες
And saith unto them Jesus for All ye
G2532 G3004 G846 G2424 G3754 G3956

σκανδαλισθήσεσθε ἐν ἐμοὶ ἐν τῇ νυκτὶ ταύτῃ
shall be offended because of because of night
G4624 G1722 G1698 G1722 G3588 G3571 G3778

ὅτι γέγραπται Πατάξω τὸν ποιμένα καὶ
for it is written I will smite the shepherd And
G3754 G1125 G3960 G3588 G4166 G2532

διασκορπισθήσεται τὰ πρόβατα
shall be scattered the sheep
G1287 G3588 G4263

Additional Cross-References

Zechariah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

John 16:32 (Parallel theme): Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

Matthew 26:31 (References Jesus): Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.

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