

# Mark 15:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

## Analysis

**They that passed by railed on him, wagging their heads**—The verb eblasphēmoun (ἐβλασφήμουν, 'blasphemed/reviled') indicates ongoing verbal abuse from passersby on the Jerusalem-to-Jericho road. The participle kinountes tas kephalas (κινοῦντες τὰς κεφαλάς, 'wagging heads') fulfills Psalm 22:7 exactly: 'All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head.' Head-wagging signified contemptuous mockery in Jewish culture.

**Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days**—They quote Jesus' words from Mark 14:58, but misunderstand entirely. Jesus spoke of His body as the temple (John 2:19-21); they heard literal stones. Their mockery unwittingly prophesied the resurrection: in three days, He WOULD rebuild the temple of His body, destroyed on the cross. The irony is exquisite: while mocking His claims, they proclaimed the very truth that would vindicate Him.

## Historical Context

Golgotha ('place of a skull') was located along a major road outside Jerusalem's walls, ensuring maximum public exposure. Passersby included Passover pilgrims, merchants, and locals—a captive audience for Rome's deterrent spectacle. Verbal abuse of crucifixion victims was common; crowds often participated in the humiliation. The 'temple' reference resonated deeply during Passover, when temple worship was central and messianic fervor peaked among pilgrims.

## Related Passages

---

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

---

1. How does Jesus' silent endurance of blasphemous mockery challenge your response to false accusations and misunderstanding?
2. What does the crowd's unwitting prophecy about the resurrection reveal about God's control over human opposition?
3. In what ways do modern critics of Christianity unwittingly proclaim truths they intend to mock?

## Interlinear Text

---

καὶ οἱ παραπορευόμενοι ἐβλασφήμουν αὐτῶν κινοῦντες  
And G3588 **they that passed by** G3899 **railed** G987 **on him** G846 **wagging** G2795  
G2532

τὰς κεφαλὰς αὐτῶν καὶ λέγοντες Οὐά ὁ  
G3588 **heads** G2776 **on him** G846 **And** G2532 **saying** G3004 **Ah** G3588  
G3588

καταλύων τὸν ναὸν καὶ ἐν τρισὶν ἡμέραις  
thou that destroyest G3588 **the temple** G3485 **And** G2532 **it in** G1722 **three** G5140 **days** G2250  
G2647

οἰκοδομῶν  
**buildest**  
G3618

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Psalms 109:25** (Parallel theme): I became also a reproach unto them: when they looked upon me they shaked their heads.

**Mark 14:58** (Temple): We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.

**Lamentations 2:15** (Parallel theme): All that pass by clap their hands at thee; they hiss and wag their head at the daughter of Jerusalem, saying, Is this the city that men call The perfection of beauty, The joy of the whole earth?

**Lamentations 1:12** (Parallel theme): Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by? behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me, wherewith the LORD hath afflicted me in the day of his fierce anger.

---

From KJV Study • [kjvstudy.org](http://kjvstudy.org)