

# Mark 9:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I say unto you, That Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed, as it is written of him.

## Analysis

---

Jesus confirmed, 'Elias is indeed come, and they have done unto him whatsoever they listed' (Ἡλίας ἐλήλυθεν, καὶ ἐποίησαν αὐτῷ ὅσα ἤθελον). This identifies John the Baptist as the Elijah-figure prophesied in Malachi 4:5-6. The phrase 'they have done unto him whatsoever they listed' (ἐποίησαν αὐτῷ ὅσα ἤθελον) refers to John's imprisonment and execution by Herod (Mark 6:14-29). Jesus draws a sobering parallel: if the forerunner suffered rejection and death, the Messiah will face the same. The pattern of redemptive history involves God's messengers suffering at human hands. This fulfills the prophetic trajectory—Isaiah 53 describes the servant 'despised and rejected,' Jeremiah was persecuted, prophets were martyred. Jesus teaches that suffering isn't deviation from God's plan but its fulfillment.

## Historical Context

---

John the Baptist was imprisoned by Herod Antipas for condemning his unlawful marriage to Herodias (Mark 6:17-18) and executed at Herodias' request (Mark 6:24-28), likely around AD 28-29. This occurred during Jesus' Galilean ministry. John's martyrdom demonstrated the spiritual darkness and moral corruption of Israel's leadership. The phrase 'as it is written of him' may refer to the suffering servant passages or the persecution of prophets throughout Israel's history (1 Kings 19:10; Nehemiah 9:26; Matthew 23:29-37). Jesus' identification of John with Elijah wasn't literal reincarnation but typological fulfillment—John came in Elijah's spirit and power, calling Israel to repentance.

## Related Passages

---

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

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

## Study Questions

---

1. How does the pattern of God's messengers suffering rejection prepare us for opposition when faithfully proclaiming the gospel?
2. What does the connection between John's suffering and Jesus' coming suffering reveal about the cost of advancing God's kingdom?

## Interlinear Text

---

ἀλλὰ	λέγω	ὕμῖν	ὅτι	καὶ	Ἑλίας	ἐλήλυθεν	καὶ
<b>But</b>	<b>I say</b>	<b>unto you</b>	<b>That</b>	<b>and</b>	<b>Elias</b>	<b>come</b>	<b>and</b>
G235	G3004	G5213	G3754	G2532	G2243	G2064	G2532
ἐποίησαν	αὐτόν	ὅσα	ἠθέλησαν,	καθὼς	γέγραπται		
<b>they have done</b>	<b>him</b>	<b>whatsoever</b>	<b>they listed</b>	<b>as</b>	<b>it is written</b>		
G4160	G846	G3745	G2309	G2531	G1125		
ἐπ'	αὐτόν						
<b>of</b>	<b>him</b>						
G1909	G846						

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Matthew 11:14** (Parallel theme): And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come.