

Matthew 10:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Analysis

Jesus intensifies the argument: 'But the very hairs of your head are all numbered' (Greek: ὑμῶν δὲ καὶ αἱ τρίχες τῆς κεφαλῆς πᾶσαι ἡριθμημέναι εἰσὶν, 'but even the hairs of your head are all numbered'). The perfect passive verb ἡριθμημέναι indicates completed action with ongoing state - God has numbered and maintains awareness of every hair. This represents exhaustive knowledge of minutiae - if God tracks something as trivial as hair count (which we don't know ourselves), nothing about us escapes His notice. This intimate attention demonstrates personal, particular care beyond general providence.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern thought emphasized God's comprehensive knowledge (Psalm 139:1-6, 147:4). The hyperbolic statement (no one literally counts hairs) emphasizes thoroughness of divine knowledge. For persecuted disciples facing death, this intimate divine attention provided comfort - their suffering wasn't unnoticed or meaningless. God's knowledge included every detail of their experience. Early martyrs testified that God's presence sustained them through torture and execution, fulfilling this promise of providential awareness.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God's attention to trivial details about us reveal His personal care?
2. What fears or anxieties diminish when we grasp the thoroughness of God's knowledge?
3. How should God's intimate awareness of every detail affect our prayer life?

Interlinear Text

ὕμῶν δὲ καὶ αἱ τρίχες τῆς κεφαλῆς πᾶσαι
of your But the very G3588 hairs G3588 head G2776 all G3956
G5216 G1161 G2532 G2359

ἡριθμημέναι εἰσὶν
numbered are
G705 G1526

Additional Cross-References

Luke 12:7 (Parallel theme): But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows.

1 Samuel 14:45 (Parallel theme): And the people said unto Saul, Shall Jonathan die, who hath wrought this great salvation in Israel? God forbid: as the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of his head fall to the ground; for he hath wrought with God this day. So the people rescued Jonathan, that he died not.

Acts 27:34 (Parallel theme): Wherefore I pray you to take some meat: for this is for your health: for there shall not an hair fall from the head of any of you.

Luke 21:18 (Parallel theme): But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

2 Samuel 14:11 (Parallel theme): Then said she, I pray thee, let the king remember the LORD thy God, that thou wouldest not suffer the revengers of blood to destroy any more, lest they destroy my son. And he said, As the LORD liveth, there shall not one hair of thy son fall to the earth.

1 Kings 1:52 (Parallel theme): And Solomon said, If he will shew himself a worthy man, there shall not an hair of him fall to the earth: but if wickedness shall be found in him, he shall die.

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