

Matthew 14:25

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

Analysis

Jesus' coming to the disciples 'in the fourth watch of the night walking on the sea' demonstrates His power over natural laws. The 'fourth watch' (3-6am) meant the disciples had struggled against the storm for hours. Jesus' walking on water reveals His divine nature—only God treads upon the waves (Job 9:8). His delay until the fourth watch tested their endurance and heightened appreciation for His rescue. He comes precisely when needed, not necessarily when desired.

Historical Context

The fourth watch (Roman division) was 3-6am, meaning the disciples had fought the storm most of the night. Jesus had spent this time in prayer on the mountain (v. 23). His walking on water would terrify the disciples, who initially thought Him a spirit (v. 26). This nature miracle reveals Jesus as Creator sovereign over His creation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' delay in coming during your 'storms' test and strengthen your faith?
2. What does Jesus walking on water teach about His divine nature?

Interlinear Text

τετάρτη δὲ φυλακῆ τῆς νυκτὸς ἀπῆλθεν πρὸς αὐτοὺς
in the fourth And watch of the night went unto them
G5067 G1161 G5438 G3588 G3571 G565 G4314 G846

ὁ Ἰησοῦς, περιπατῶν ἐπὶ τῆς θαλάσσης
G3588 Jesus walking on the sea
G2424 G4043 G1909 G2281

Additional Cross-References

Job 9:8 (Parallel theme): Which alone spreadeth out the heavens, and treadeth upon the waves of the sea.

Mark 6:48 (Kingdom): And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them.

John 6:19 (Kingdom): So when they had rowed about five and twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus walking on the sea, and drawing nigh unto the ship: and they were afraid.

Matthew 24:43 (Parallel theme): But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Luke 12:38 (Parallel theme): And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants.

Psalms 104:3 (Parallel theme): Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

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