

Matthew 16:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Analysis

Jesus begins revealing His approaching suffering, death, and resurrection—core gospel events. The phrase 'began to shew' indicates this teaching continues through the Gospels. Reformed soteriology emphasizes the necessity of Christ's suffering: God's justice required payment for sin, accomplished through the cross. Jesus 'must' (Greek 'dei'—divine necessity) suffer because God's redemptive plan demanded it. The mention of resurrection shows death isn't defeat but the path to victory over sin and death.

Historical Context

This teaching shocked disciples expecting a conquering Messiah, not a suffering servant. Jesus mentions Jerusalem (where prophets died), elders/chief priests/scribes (Sanhedrin leadership), and being killed—details fulfilled in the Passion narrative. The third-day resurrection reference points to Hosea 6:2 and establishes the timeline. This is Jesus' first Passion prediction in Matthew.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's necessary suffering demonstrate God's justice and mercy?
2. What wrong expectations about Jesus do you need to release?
3. How does the resurrection transform the meaning of Christ's suffering?

Interlinear Text

ἀπὸ τότε ἥρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς δεικνύειν τοῖς
From that time forth began G3588 Jesus to shew G3588
G575 G5119 G756 G2424 G1166

μαθηταῖς αὐτὸν ὅτι δεῖ αὐτὸν ἀπελθεῖν εἰς
disciples he how that must he go unto
G3101 G846 G3754 G1163 G846 G565 G1519

Ἰεροσόλυμα καὶ πολλὰ παθεῖν ἀπὸ τῶν πρεσβυτέρων
Jerusalem and many things suffer From G3588 the elders
G2414 G2532 G4183 G3958 G575 G4245

καὶ ἀρχιερέων καὶ γραμματέων καὶ ἀποκτανθῆναι καὶ
and chief priests and scribes and be killed and
G2532 G749 G2532 G1122 G2532 G615 G2532

τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθῆναι
the third day be raised again
G3588 G5154 G2250 G1453

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 17:12 (Parallel theme): But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Matthew 20:28 (Parallel theme): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Matthew 27:63 (Resurrection): Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Luke 17:25 (Parallel theme): But first must he suffer many things, and be rejected of this generation.

Matthew 26:47 (Parallel theme): And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

Matthew 26:2 (Parallel theme): Ye know that after two days is the feast of the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.

Luke 9:31 (References Jerusalem): Who appeared in glory, and spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem.

Luke 24:46 (Resurrection): And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: