

Matthew 17:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

Analysis

And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again (καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθήσεται)—The future ἀποκτενοῦσιν ('they will kill') specifies death by human agency, yet the passive ἐγερθήσεται ('He will be raised') indicates divine agency—the Father will raise the Son (Acts 2:24, 32; Romans 8:11). The phrase τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ('on the third day') fulfills Hosea 6:2 and Jonah's three-day sign (Matthew 12:40). This specific timeframe proves Jesus's prophetic authority—He predicted not only His death but the exact timing of His resurrection.

And they were exceeding sorry (καὶ ἐλυπήθησαν σφόδρα)—The verb λυπέω (lypeō, 'to grieve, to be sorrowful') intensified by σφόδρα ('exceedingly, greatly') shows their emotional devastation. Yet their sorrow focused on the death, not the resurrection. They heard 'killed' but didn't process 'raised'—selective hearing based on preconceptions. They expected a conquering Messiah, not a suffering servant. Their grief reveals they didn't yet understand that Christ's death was necessary for redemption, not defeat of God's purposes.

Historical Context

Jewish messianic expectations focused on a conquering Davidic king who would overthrow Rome and restore Israel's kingdom (Acts 1:6). The concept of a suffering, dying Messiah contradicted these hopes, despite clear Old Testament prophecies (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22). Only after the resurrection did disciples grasp

how Scripture predicted Messiah's suffering and glory (Luke 24:25-27, 44-46). Their 'exceeding sorrow' shows how deeply entrenched wrong theology prevented receiving truth.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What theological preconceptions prevent you from hearing and accepting biblical truth that contradicts your expectations?
2. Why do we often focus on difficulties ('they will kill Him') while ignoring promises ('He will be raised')?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἀποκτενοῦσιν	αὐτόν,	καὶ	τῇ	τρίτῃ	ἡμέρᾳ
And	they shall kill		him	And	G3588	the third
G2532	G615		G846	G2532	G5154	G2250
εἰγερθήσεται	καὶ	ἐλυπήθησαν		σφόδρα		
he shall be raised again	And		sorry	they were exceeding		
G1453	G2532		G3076	G4970		

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:21 (Resurrection): 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.

Mark 8:31 (Resurrection): And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Zechariah 13:7 (Parallel theme): Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.

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