

Matthew 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.

Analysis

Reformed theology emphasizes the divine initiative evident in this text. The verse connects to broader biblical themes of covenant, redemption, and God's unchanging character. Understanding this passage requires recognizing both its historical context and its application to Christian life.

Historical Context

First-century Palestine was marked by religious fervor and political tension. The passage reflects interactions between Jesus and various groups: Pharisees, Sadducees, disciples, and crowds. Each audience received teaching tailored to their needs and spiritual condition.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. What does this text reveal about human nature and God's grace?
2. How can you apply this teaching to current struggles or questions?
3. What changes in thinking or behavior does this passage require?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀκούσαντες οἱ μαθηταὶ ἐπεσον ἐπὶ πρόσωπον
And heard when the disciples it they fell on face
G2532 G191 G3588 G3101 G4098 G1909 G4383

αὐτῶν καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν σφόδρα
G846 And afraid were sore
G2532 G5399 G4970

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:14 (Parallel theme): And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

2 Peter 1:18 (Parallel theme): And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.