

Matthew 26:45

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners.

Analysis

Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest (τότε ἔρχεται πρὸς τοὺς μαθητὰς καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Καθεύδετε λοιπὸν καὶ ἀναπαύεσθε)—This is likely ironic or rhetorical—'Are you still sleeping and resting?' The λοιπὸν ('finally, at last, from now on') may indicate resigned acceptance of their weakness, or it may be ironic: 'Sleep on, then!' The opportunity to watch has passed. **Behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners** (ἰδοὺ ἤγγικεν ἡ ὥρα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται εἰς χεῖρας ἀμαρτωλῶν)—The interjection ἰδοὺ ('behold!') demands attention.

The perfect ἤγγικεν ('has drawn near, is at hand') shows the hour arrived—no more delay. The present παραδίδοται ('is being betrayed') may be futuristic present (immediately forthcoming) or describe Judas's approach even as Jesus spoke. The phrase εἰς χεῖρας ἀμαρτωλῶν ('into hands of sinners') shows the sinless one delivered to sinful humanity—the supreme irony. The title 'Son of Man' (Daniel 7:13-14) emphasizes Jesus's messianic identity and human nature.

Historical Context

The 'hour' (ὥρα) refers to Jesus's appointed time of suffering, frequently mentioned in John (John 2:4; 7:30; 8:20; 12:23, 27; 13:1; 17:1). The divine timetable couldn't be rushed or delayed—Judas's betrayal occurred precisely when

ordained. The description of Jesus's captors as 'sinners' (ἁμαρτωλοί) emphasizes the innocence of the victim and guilt of the captors. Isaiah 53:12 prophesied Messiah would be 'numbered with the transgressors'—now fulfilling as sinners arrest the sinless.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's ironic 'Sleep on now' rebuke you when opportunities for spiritual alertness pass unused?
2. What does the precision of 'the hour' teach about God's sovereign timing—neither early nor late but exactly appointed?

Interlinear Text

τότε	ἔρχεται	πρὸς	τοὺς	μαθητὰς	αὐτοῖς	καὶ	λέγει
Then	cometh he	to	G3588	disciples	unto them	and	saith
G5119	G2064	G4314		G3101	G846	G2532	G3004
αὐτοῖς	Καθεύδετε	τὸ	λοιπὸν	καὶ	ἀναπαύεσθε·	ἰδού,	
unto them	Sleep on	G3588	now	and	take your rest	behold	
G846	G2518		G3063	G2532	G373	G2400	
ἤγγικεν	ἡ	ὥρα	καὶ	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου
is at hand	G3588	the hour	and	G3588	the Son	G3588	of man
G1448		G5610	G2532		G5207		G444
παραδίδοται	εἰς	χειρὰς	ἁμαρτωλῶν				
is betrayed	into	the hands	of sinners				
G3860	G1519	G5495	G268				

Additional Cross-References

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 12:27 (Parallel theme): Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.

John 17:1 (Parallel theme): These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee:

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