

Matthew 27:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Analysis

And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly (ἐθαύμασεν λίαν)—The Greek ethaumasen lian (marveled exceedingly) shows Pilate's amazement. No defendant remained silent when facing crucifixion—Rome's most horrific execution, reserved for slaves and rebels.

Pilate sensed something transcendent. This was no ordinary prisoner. Jesus's majestic silence was more powerful than eloquent defense, revealing His divine self-control and sovereign purpose. 'He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth' (Isaiah 53:7).

Historical Context

Crucifixion was Rome's ultimate deterrent—a slow, excruciating public death designed to humiliate and terrorize. Roman citizens were exempt; it was for non-citizens, especially slaves and insurrectionists. That Jesus faced this willingly was incomprehensible.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus's majestic silence in the face of death reveal about His character and mission?
2. How should the horror of crucifixion deepen your appreciation for what Christ endured for your redemption?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐκ	ἀπεκρίθη	αὐτῷ	πρὸς	οὐδὲ	ἐν	βῆμα	
And	he answered		G611	him	to	never	a	word
G2532	G3756			G846	G4314	G3761	G1520	G4487

ὡστε	θαυμάζειν	τὸν	ἡγεμόνα	λίαν
insomuch	marvelled	G3588	that the governor	greatly
G5620	G2296		G2232	G3029

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 8:18 (Parallel theme): Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org