

Matthew 27:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Analysis

When they had bound him (δήσαντες αὐτόν, dēsantes auton)—the binding of Jesus is theologically significant beyond mere restraint. This innocent Lamb is bound so that guilty sinners might go free (John 18:8). The Greek deō (to bind) ironically reverses Satan's bondage; Christ is bound that we might be loosed from sin's chains.

Delivered him to Pontius Pilate (παρέδωκαν Πιλάτῳ, paredōkan Pilatō)—the verb paradidōmi means "to hand over" or "betray," the same word used of Judas's betrayal (26:15). The Sanhedrin, lacking authority to execute (John 18:31), transfers Jesus to Roman jurisdiction. This fulfills Christ's prediction (20:19) and ensures both Jewish and Gentile complicity in the crucifixion—representing all humanity's guilt. Pilate's title hēgemōn (governor/procurator) emphasizes earthly authority that unknowingly serves divine sovereignty (Acts 4:27-28).

Historical Context

Pontius Pilate served as Roman prefect of Judea (AD 26-36), appointed by Emperor Tiberius. The Sanhedrin required Roman approval for capital punishment. Pilate's residence was Caesarea Maritima, but he came to Jerusalem during Passover to prevent riots. Jesus was likely taken to the Praetorium (Herod's palace or Antonia Fortress) early Friday morning.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ being "bound" to accomplish your freedom deepen your gratitude for substitutionary atonement?
2. What does the collaboration of Jewish religious leaders and Roman political power teach about humanity's universal guilt in crucifying Christ?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	δέσαντες	αὐτὸν	ἀπήγαγον	καὶ	παρέδωκαν
And	when they had bound	him	they led him away	And	delivered
G2532	G1210	G846	G520	G2532	G3860
αὐτὸν	Ποντίω	Πιλάτῳ	τῷ	ἡγεμόνι	
him	to Pontius	Pilate	G3588	the governor	
G846	G4194	G4091		G2232	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 3:13 (Parallel theme): The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

Matthew 20:19 (Parallel theme): And shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock, and to scourge, and to crucify him: and the third day he shall rise again.

1 Timothy 6:13 (Parallel theme): I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession;

Luke 13:1 (Parallel theme): There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

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