

Matthew 27:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots:
that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet,
They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture
did they cast lots.

Analysis

They crucified him (σταυρώσαντες, staurōsantes)—Matthew gives no details of the crucifixion itself, the horror too well-known to describe. Nails through wrists and feet, body suspended, suffocation setting in. **Parted his garments, casting lots** (διεμερίσαντο τὰ ἱμάτια...βάλλοντες κλῆρον, diemerisanto...ballontes klēron)—fulfilling Psalm 22:18 precisely.

While Jesus hangs between heaven and earth, bearing cosmic sin, soldiers gamble for his seamless tunic. The contrast is staggering: the Son of God dies; men play dice. Yet even their greed fulfills prophecy, demonstrating divine sovereignty over every detail of redemption's plan.

Historical Context

Roman crucifixion victims' clothing became the executioners' perquisite. A Jewish man's garments typically included sandals, head covering, belt, outer garment, and tunic (five pieces). John 19:23-24 specifies the seamless tunic that was not torn but gambled for intact.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. What does the soldiers' indifference—gambling while Jesus dies—reveal about human depravity?
2. How does the fulfillment of Psalm 22:18 demonstrate God's sovereignty over every detail of the crucifixion?

Interlinear Text

σταυρώσαντες	δὲ	αὐτοῦ	διεμερίσαντο	τὸν	ἱμάτια	
they crucified	And	him	They parted	which	garments	
G4717	G1161	G846	G1266	G3588	G2440	
αὐτοῦ	ἔβαλον	κλῆρον,	ἵνα	πληρωθῇ	τὸν	ῥηθὲν
him	casting	lots	that	it might be fulfilled	which	was spoken
G846	G906	G2819	G2443	G4137	G3588	G4483
ὑπὸ	τὸν	προφήτου,	διεμερίσαντο	τὸν	ἱμάτια	μου
by	which	the prophet	They parted	which	garments	my
G5259	G3588	G4396	G1266	G3588	G2440	G3450
ἐαυτοῖς,	καὶ	ἐπὶ	τὸν	ἱματισμόν	μου	ἔβαλον κλῆρον,
among them	and	upon	which	vesture	my	casting lots
G1438	G2532	G1909	G3588	G2441	G3450	G906 G2819

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 22:18 (Parallel theme): They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Luke 23:34 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Acts 4:10 (Cross): Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Psalms 22:16 (Parallel theme): For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

John 20:27 (Parallel theme): Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

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