

Matthew 27:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him to drink.

Analysis

One of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar (ὄξος)—this fulfills Psalm 69:21, 'in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.' The Greek oxos refers to posca, the sour wine Roman soldiers drank. The gesture appears merciful—offering drink to the dying—yet Matthew presents it as part of the mockery.

Put it on a reed (κάλαμον)—likely a hyssop branch (John 19:29), connecting Christ's death to the Passover lamb whose blood was applied with hyssop (Exodus 12:22). Jesus, the ultimate Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5:7), receives his final earthly drink through the same plant that marked Hebrew doorposts for deliverance from death.

Historical Context

Roman crucifixion often lasted days. Offering sour wine could either prolong suffering by reviving the victim, or provide minimal mercy. The timing—just before Jesus' death—and the prophetic fulfillment make this act significant beyond simple humanitarian gesture. Hyssop also featured in purification rituals (Leviticus 14:4, Numbers 19:6).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the hyssop connection reveal Christ as both Passover Lamb and purification sacrifice?
2. What does this fulfilled prophecy teach about God's sovereignty over even the smallest details of redemption?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εὐθέως δραμὼν εἷς ἐξ αὐτόν καὶ λαβὼν σπόγγον
And straightway ran one of him And took a sponge
G2532 G2112 G5143 G1520 G1537 G846 G2532 G2983 G4699

πλήσας τε ὄξους καὶ περιθεὶς καλάμῳ ἐπότιζεν
filled and it with vinegar And put it on a reed and gave
G4130 G5037 G3690 G2532 G4060 G2563 G4222

αὐτόν
him
G846

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 69:21 (Parallel theme): They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

Matthew 27:34 (Parallel theme): They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

Luke 23:36 (Parallel theme): And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,

