

Matthew 27:63

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said, while he was yet alive, After three days I will rise again.

Analysis

Sir, we remember that that deceiver said (ἐκεῖνος ὁ πλάνος)—calling Jesus ho planos (the deceiver/imposter) fulfilled Jesus' own prediction of persecution (John 15:20). The Greek definite article emphasizes 'that notorious deceiver,' showing their contempt continued beyond death. Yet they quoted him accurately: **After three days I will rise again**—referencing Matthew 12:40, 16:21, 17:23, 20:19.

Profound irony: they labeled Jesus a deceiver while plotting deception (v. 64, 'lest his disciples...steal him'). They called the Truth a liar. Yet their accurate memory of his 'three days' claim testifies unintentionally to its importance. The religious establishment felt threatened by a dead man's promise—revealing they secretly feared he might fulfill it. Truth haunts those who suppress it.

Historical Context

Jewish law prescribed death for false prophets who led people astray (Deuteronomy 13:1-5). By calling Jesus 'that deceiver,' they justified his execution while simultaneously acknowledging his prophetic claims. Their concern over resurrection proves they took his predictions seriously despite public mockery—revealing private doubt about their verdict.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Why did the religious leaders fear Jesus more after his death than during his life?
2. How do we, like them, sometimes fight against truth we secretly fear might be real?

Interlinear Text

λέγοντες	Κύριε	ἐμνήσθημεν	ὅτι	ἐκεῖνος	ὁ	πλάνος
Saying	Sir	we remember	that	that	G3588	deceiver
G3004	G2962	G3415	G3754	G1565		G4108
εἶπεν	ἔτι	ζῶν	Μετὰ	τρεῖς	ἡμέρας	ἐγείρομαι
said	while he was yet	alive	After	three	days	I will rise again
G2036	G2089	G2198	G3326	G5140	G2250	G1453

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:22 (Resurrection): Saying, The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.

Matthew 16:21 (Resurrection): From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Mark 8:31 (Resurrection): And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

Mark 10:34 (Resurrection): And they shall mock him, and shall scourge him, and shall spit upon him, and shall kill him: and the third day he shall rise again.

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

Matthew 17:23 (Resurrection): And they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceeding sorry.

John 2:19 (Resurrection): Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.

Luke 18:33 (Resurrection): And they shall scourge him, and put him to death: and the third day he shall rise again.

Matthew 26:61 (Parallel theme): And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days.

John 7:12 (Parallel theme): And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people.