

1 Corinthians 10:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

Analysis

Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come— Paul summarizes his hermeneutical method: Old Testament narratives happened typikōs (τυπικῶς, "typically/as types/as examples") and were written for Christian instruction. History has pedagogical purpose under God's providence. These weren't random events but divinely orchestrated lessons for future generations.

The phrase **for our admonition** (pros nouthesian hēmōn, πρὸς νοοθεσίαν ἡμῶν) indicates warning that corrects thinking and behavior. **Upon whom the ends of the world are come** (ta telē tōn aiōnōn, τὰ τέλη τῶν αἰώνων, literally "the ends of the ages") describes the eschatological position of the church—living in the overlap of this age and the age to come, between Christ's first and second coming. History has reached its climax; the final era has begun.

Because Christians live in the end times, Old Testament warnings apply with greater urgency. Israel's failures occurred in the shadows; ours occur in full light of Christ's revelation. Greater privilege brings greater accountability. These ancient examples aren't interesting anecdotes but urgent warnings for those living in salvation history's final chapter.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic thought divided history into "this age" and "the age to come." Paul teaches that Christ's death and resurrection inaugurated the age to come, though this age continues. The church exists at the hinge of the ages—experiencing new creation realities while still battling old creation corruption. This eschatological tension makes Israel's warnings especially relevant.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does understanding yourself as living in "the ends of the ages" affect your urgency about holiness?
2. What Old Testament passages serve as your personal "admonitions" against specific temptations?
3. If Israel's failures under lesser revelation brought judgment, what does this mean for Christians under the new covenant?

Interlinear Text

ταῦτα	δὲ	πάντα	τύποι	συνέβαινον	ἐκείνοις
these things	Now	all	for ensamples	happened	unto them
G5023	G1161	G3956	G5179	G4819	G1565
ἐγράφη	δὲ	πρὸς	νουθεσίαν	ἡμῶν	εἰς
they are written	Now	for	admonition	our	upon
G1125	G1161	G4314	G3559	G2257	G1519
whom	G3588				
τέλη	τῶν	αἰώνων	κατήντησεν		
the ends	G3588	of the world	are come		
G5056		G165	G2658		

Additional Cross-References

Romans 15:4 (Parallel theme): For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 13:11 (Parallel theme): And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

1 John 2:18 (Parallel theme): Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

Philippians 4:5 (Parallel theme): Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

1 Corinthians 9:10 (Parallel theme): Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

Hebrews 10:25 (Parallel theme): Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:37 (Parallel theme): For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Romans 4:23 (Parallel theme): Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him;