

1 Corinthians 15:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

Analysis

Then cometh the end (εῖτα τὸ τέλος)—The word telos (τέλος) means "end, goal, completion, consummation." This is the eschaton, the end of the current age and the inauguration of the eternal state. The sequence is:

1. Christ's resurrection
2. believers' resurrection at the parousia
3. the end/consummation.

When he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father

(ὅταν παραδιδῷ τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ θεῷ καὶ πατρί)—The verb paradidō (παραδιδῷ, "hands over, delivers up") indicates transferring authority.

Christ's mediatorial kingdom, exercised during the millennium or intermediate state, is delivered to the Father when redemption is complete. This doesn't mean Christ ceases to reign but that the economic Trinity's redemptive mission is accomplished—no more enemies to conquer.

When he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power (ὅταν καταργήσῃ πᾶσαν ἀρχὴν καὶ πᾶσαν ἐξουσίαν καὶ δύναμιν)—The verb katargeō (καταργέω) means "abolish, nullify, render powerless." Christ systematically dismantles every hostile cosmic power—Satan, demons, death, and human rebellion—before handing the perfected kingdom to the Father.

Historical Context

This verse sparked theological debates about Christ's eternal kingship. Orthodox theology affirms Christ reigns eternally with the Father; the 'delivering up' refers to the completion of redemptive mission, not abdication. Arians misused this verse to argue Christ's inferiority; Paul actually affirms functional subordination within ontological equality.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's 'delivering up the kingdom' relate to the completion of his mediatorial work?
2. What hostile 'rule, authority, and power' must Christ destroy before the end comes?
3. How does this verse balance Christ's deity with his functional submission to the Father's plan?

Interlinear Text

εἰτα	τὸ	τέλος	ὅταν	παραδῷ	τὴν
Then	G3588	cometh the end	when	he shall have delivered up	G3588
G1534		G5056	G3752	G3860	

βασιλείαν	τῷ	θεῷ	καὶ	πατρί	ὅταν	καταργήσῃ
the kingdom	G3588	to God	and	the Father	when	he shall have put down
G932		G2316	G2532	G3962	G3752	G2673

πᾶσαν	ἀρχὴν	καὶ	πᾶσαν	ἐξουσίαν	καὶ	δύναμιν
all	rule	and	all	authority	and	power
G3956	G746	G2532	G3956	G1849	G2532	G1411

Additional Cross-References

Daniel 7:27 (Kingdom): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

Daniel 7:14 (Kingdom): And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Matthew 28:18 (Parallel theme): And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

John 13:3 (References God): Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

1 Timothy 6:15 (Kingdom): Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

Daniel 2:44 (Kingdom): And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Isaiah 9:7 (Kingdom): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Matthew 24:13 (Parallel theme): But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

John 3:35 (Parallel theme): The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

