

1 Corinthians 15:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.

Analysis

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars (ἄλλη δόξα ἡλίου, καὶ ἄλλη δόξα σελήνης, καὶ ἄλλη δόξα ἀστέρων)—Paul distinguishes even within celestial bodies. Sun, moon, stars all have doxa (δόξα, "glory"), but different doxa. The sun's brilliance exceeds the moon's reflected light; stars' twinkling differs from both.

For one star differeth from another star in glory (ἀστὴρ γὰρ ἀστέρος διαφέρει ἐν δόξῃ)—Even among stars, brightness varies—first magnitude vs. faint stars barely visible. Paul's point: unity doesn't require uniformity. All heavenly bodies shine, but with different splendor. Similarly, all resurrection bodies will be glorified, yet may differ in glory (Daniel 12:3: 'those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky'). This hints at rewards/degrees of glory, though all inherit eternal life.

Historical Context

Ancient astronomy observed varying star magnitudes without understanding stellar physics. Paul uses observable difference to make theological point: resurrection doesn't erase individuality or reward but perfects and glorifies each according to God's wise purpose. This verse influenced later theological reflection on degrees of heavenly reward.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does variation in celestial glory help us understand diversity within resurrection perfection?
2. What might account for different degrees of glory in resurrection—does this threaten salvation by grace?
3. How does this verse balance equality (all are glorified) with difference (varying glory)?

Interlinear Text

ἄλλη	δόξη	ἡλίου	καὶ	ἄλλη	δόξη	σελήνης	καὶ
There is one	glory	of the sun	and	There is one	glory	of the moon	and
G243	G1391	G2246	G2532	G243	G1391	G4582	G2532

ἄλλη	δόξη	ἀστέρος	ἀστέρος	γὰρ	ἀστέρος	διαφέρει
There is one	glory	another star	another star	for	another star	differeth from
G243	G1391	G792	G792	G1063	G792	G1308

ἐν	δόξη
in	glory
G1722	G1391