

2 Peter 2:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Whereas angels, which are greater in power and might, bring not railing accusation against them before the Lord.

Analysis

Chapter 2, verse 11 - Comprehensive theological analysis. Peter continues his urgent apostolic warning about the dangers facing the church. This verse contributes crucial insights to understanding false teachers' characteristics, God's judgment patterns, and believers' proper response. The Greek terminology reveals theological precision in Peter's argument, emphasizing both divine sovereignty in salvation and human responsibility in sanctification.

The immediate context connects to Peter's broader argument about maintaining doctrinal purity and moral integrity while awaiting Christ's return. Greek word studies illuminate the specific nature of the threats Peter identifies and the resources God provides for perseverance. This passage resonates with Old Testament prophetic warnings, Jesus' teaching about false prophets, and Paul's pastoral instructions, demonstrating biblical theology's consistency across testaments and authors.

Christ-centered interpretation reveals how this verse ultimately points to Jesus as the standard for truth, the source of power for godly living, and the coming Judge who will vindicate the faithful and condemn the wicked. The eschatological dimension reminds believers that present struggles occur within the larger framework of redemptive history culminating in Christ's glorious return and the establishment of the new heavens and new earth.

Historical Context

The first-century church faced unique challenges from both pagan Greco-Roman culture and Jewish opposition, while also contending with internal threats from false teachers who distorted apostolic doctrine. Peter writes in the shadow of Nero's persecution (AD 64-68) and his own approaching martyrdom, making this letter his urgent final testament to the churches. Early Gnostic influences promoting secret knowledge, antinomian ethics, and denial of Christ's physical return created the specific heresies Peter addresses.

Understanding the social, religious, and philosophical context of the Roman Empire illuminates Peter's concerns and arguments. The delay of Christ's parousia created pastoral challenges as expectations of imminent return gave way to questions about timing and certainty. Jewish apocalyptic literature, Greco-Roman moral philosophy, and mystery religions all influenced how different groups understood salvation, ethics, and eschatology, requiring apostolic clarification to maintain orthodox Christianity.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge compromises you might be tempted to make for cultural acceptance or personal comfort?
2. What practices would help you grow in discernment to recognize and resist false teaching in its contemporary forms?
3. How should the certainty of Christ's return and judgment shape your priorities, relationships, and use of time and resources?

Interlinear Text

ὅπου	ἄγγελοι	ἰσχύϊ	καὶ	δυνάμει	μείζονες	ὄντες	οὐ
Whereas	angels	power	and	might	^{G3173}	which are	not
^{G3699}	^{G32}	^{G2479}	^{G2532}	^{G1411}		^{G5607}	^{G3756}
φέρουσιν	κατ'	αὐτῶν	παρὰ	Κυρίῳ	βλάσφημον	κρίσιν	
bring	against	them	before	the Lord	railing	accusation	
^{G5342}	^{G2596}	^{G846}	^{G3844}	^{G2962}	^{G989}	^{G2920}	

Additional Cross-References

Jude 1:9 (References Lord): Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Psalms 104:4 (Parallel theme): Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire:

2 Thessalonians 1:7 (References Lord): And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,