

2 Thessalonians 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Analysis

Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power—everlasting destruction (olethron aiōnion, ὀλεθρον αἰώνιον) is not annihilation but eternal ruin, conscious separation from God. The punishment is **from the presence** (apo prosōpou, ἀπὸ προσώπου, 'away from the face') of the Lord—ultimate exile from God's favor.

And from the glory of his power doubly emphasizes separation—excluded from God's radiant presence and His mighty strength. This is hell's essence: eternal banishment from all that is good, true, beautiful, and life-giving. The same presence that brings joy to believers brings terror to the condemned. Jesus's glory will be unbearable to those who spurned Him.

Historical Context

Greek philosophy debated the soul's fate—Platonists believed in immortality, Epicureans in annihilation. Paul affirms conscious, eternal punishment, contradicting both pagan theories and modern annihilationism. The Hebrew olam and Greek aiōnios consistently denote unending duration in Scripture.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the reality of eternal destruction affect your urgency in evangelism?
2. What does it mean that hell is primarily separation from God rather than merely physical torment?
3. How do you reconcile God's love with His infliction of everlasting punishment?

Interlinear Text

οἵτινες	δίκην	τίσουσιν	ὄλεθρον	αἰώνιον	ἀπὸ			
Who	shall be punished	G5099	destruction	with everlasting	from			
G3748	G1349		G3639	G166	G575			
προσώπου	τοῦ	κυρίου	καὶ	ἀπὸ	τῆς	δόξης	τῆς	ἰσχύος
the presence	G3588	of the Lord	and	from	G3588	the glory	G3588	power
G4383		G2962	G2532	G575		G1391		G2479
αὐτοῦ								
of his								
G846								

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 25:41 (Eternal Life): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

Isaiah 2:21 (Glory): To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 (References Lord): And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Matthew 25:46 (Eternal Life): And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Philippians 3:19 (Glory): Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Revelation 20:14 (Parallel theme): And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Isaiah 2:19 (Glory): And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Isaiah 2:10 (Glory): Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.

2 Peter 3:7 (Parallel theme): But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.