

Colossians 1:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Analysis

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son. The verb *erysato* (ἐρύσατο, "delivered") is aorist, indicating completed rescue from *exousias tou skotous* (ἐξουσίας τοῦ σκότους, "authority of the darkness"). "Authority" implies organized hostile power—Satan's kingdom operates with structure and intention. Deliverance isn't self-achieved but divinely accomplished, emphasizing salvation by grace.

"Translated" renders *metestesen* (μετέστησεν, "transferred"), used of relocating populations. God didn't merely reform believers but transferred them from one realm to another—from Satan's domain into Christ's kingdom. This isn't gradual progress but decisive relocation, completed at conversion. The kingdom belongs to "his dear Son" (tou huiou tēs agapēs autou, τοῦ νιοῦ τῆς ἀγάπης αὐτοῦ, literally "the Son of his love"), emphasizing eternal Father-Son relationship.

Historical Context

Ancient conquering kings forcibly relocated conquered populations to prevent rebellion (2 Kings 17:6). Paul transforms this imagery positively: God transferred believers from hostile territory into His Son's secure kingdom. This wasn't brutal deportation but gracious rescue, liberating captives from tyranny into beloved citizenship. The transaction is complete; believers now live under new authority.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Do you live with awareness that you've been delivered from Satan's authority and transferred into Christ's kingdom?
2. What remnants of 'the power of darkness' still influence your thoughts, habits, or priorities?
3. How does recognizing Christ's kingdom as present reality (not merely future hope) affect daily decisions?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	ἐρόύσατο	ἡμᾶς	ἐκ	τῆς	ἐξουσίας	τοῦ	σκότους	καὶ
Who	hath delivered	us	from	G3588	the power	G3588	of darkness	and
G3739	G4506	G2248	G1537		G1849		G4655	G2532
μετέστησεν	εἰς	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τοῦ	νιοῦ	τῆς	ἀγάπης	
hath translated	us into	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	Son	G3588	dear	
G3179	G1519		G932		G5207		G26	
αὐτοῦ								

Additional Cross-References

Acts 26:18 (Darkness): To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Ephesians 5:8 (Darkness): For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

1 Peter 2:9 (Darkness): But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Ephesians 6:12 (Darkness): For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

1 Thessalonians 2:12 (Kingdom): That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

Ephesians 4:18 (Darkness): Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Romans 14:17 (Kingdom): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

1 John 3:14 (Parallel theme): We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Parallel theme): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

1 John 3:8 (Parallel theme): He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.