

John 1:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

Analysis

The rejection narrows from world to 'his own' (ta idia)—His own property, His own people Israel. The Jewish nation, prepared through centuries of revelation, prophecy, and covenant relationship, 'received him not' (ou parelabon). The verb 'paralambano' means to take, receive, or accept—Israel refused to welcome their own Messiah. This is the supreme tragedy of the incarnation: those most prepared to recognize Him proved most resistant. Familiarity bred contempt; religious pride blinded eyes that should have seen.

Historical Context

Israel had every advantage: the Scriptures, the prophets, the temple, the covenants. They were looking for Messiah, yet when He came, they rejected Him. Jesus came to Nazareth, His hometown, and they tried to kill Him (Luke 4:29). He came to Jerusalem, and the religious leaders conspired against Him. The very specificity of Old Testament prophecy was turned against them—expecting a conquering king, they rejected the suffering servant.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does religious familiarity sometimes breed contempt and blindness to God's work?
2. What warnings does Israel's rejection of Christ provide for the church today?

Interlinear Text

εἰς τὰ ἰδιοι ἥλθεν καὶ οἱ ἰδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ
unto G3588 his own He came and G3588 G2398 his own G2398 him G846 not G3756
G1519 G2398 G2064 G2532 G2398 G846 G3756

παρέλαβον

received

G3880

Additional Cross-References

Luke 19:14 (Parallel theme): But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

John 3:32 (Parallel theme): And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

Matthew 15:24 (Parallel theme): But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Acts 13:46 (Parallel theme): Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Romans 15:8 (Parallel theme): Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

Romans 9:5 (Parallel theme): Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

Romans 9:1 (Parallel theme): I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

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