

John 12:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.

Analysis

Jesus announces 'now is the judgment of this world,' identifying the cross as cosmic courtroom. The crucifixion paradoxically judges the world while judging the sinless Judge. Satan ('the prince of this world') will be 'cast out,' his defeat accomplished through Christ's death. This demonstrates Christus Victor atonement—the cross defeats Satan, disarms principalities (Col 2:15), and liberates captives. The ruler's casting out doesn't mean elimination but defeat—his authority over believers breaks. The cross inverts apparent reality: seeming defeat becomes victory; apparent weakness becomes power.

Historical Context

Satan as 'prince of this world' appears elsewhere in John (14:30; 16:11). Jewish apocalyptic literature anticipated Messiah's victory over evil powers. Jesus identifies the cross as that decisive battle.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does the cross judge both the world and Satan?
2. What does Satan's 'casting out' mean practically for believers?
3. In what ways does apparent defeat become God's victory pattern?

Interlinear Text

νῦν	κρίσις	ἐστὶν	τοῦ	κόσμου	τούτου	νῦν	ὁ
Now	the judgment	is	G3588	world	of this	Now	G3588
G3568	G2920	G2076		G2889	G5127	G3568	
ἄρχων	τοῦ	κόσμου	τούτου	ἐκβληθήσεται	ἔξω·		
the prince	G3588	world	of this	be cast	out		
G758		G2889	G5127	G1544	G1854		

Additional Cross-References

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.

1 John 5:19 (Parallel theme): And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

John 14:30 (Parallel theme): Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me.

Ephesians 6:12 (Parallel theme): 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.

Hebrews 2:14 (Parallel theme): Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Colossians 2:15 (Parallel theme): And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

1 John 4:4 (Parallel theme): Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Matthew 12:28 (Parallel theme): But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.

Genesis 3:15 (Parallel theme): And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.