

John 12:48

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Analysis

Those rejecting Jesus and His words have 'one that judgeth'—the word itself judges them at the last day. God's word becomes either savior or judge depending on response. The rejected message becomes accusation. This demonstrates Scripture's authority: God's word doesn't return void (Is 55:11) but accomplishes judgment or salvation. The 'last day' refers to final judgment when all accounts settle. Jesus' words, now rejected, will then condemn. This underscores the seriousness of rejecting divine revelation.

Historical Context

The 'last day' was common Jewish terminology for final resurrection and judgment. Jesus uses it consistently (6:39-40, 44, 54; 11:24). His teaching will serve as standard at that judgment.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's word serve as both potential salvation and certain judgment?
2. What does this teach about Scripture's enduring authority?
3. In what ways does your response to God's word determine your eternal destiny?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	ἀθετῶν	ἐμὲ	καὶ	μὴ	λαμβάνων	τὰ	ῥήματά	μου
G3588	He that rejecteth	me	and	not	receiveth	G3588	words	my
	G114	G1691	G2532	G3361	G2983		G4487	G3450
ἔχει	τὸν	κρινεῖ	αὐτὸν	ὁ	λόγος	ὃν	ἐλάλησα	
hath	G3588	one that judgeth	him	G3588	the word	that	I have spoken	
G2192		G2919	G846		G3056	G3739	G2980	
ἐκεῖνος	κρινεῖ	αὐτὸν	ἐν	τῇ	ἐσχάτῃ	ἡμέρᾳ		
the same	one that judgeth	him	in	G3588	the last	day		
G1565	G2919	G846	G1722		G2078	G2250		

Additional Cross-References

Luke 10:16 (Parallel theme): He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Romans 2:16 (Judgment): In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.

John 11:24 (Parallel theme): Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

2 Thessalonians 1:8 (Parallel theme): In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Hebrews 12:25 (Parallel theme): See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

Hebrews 2:3 (Parallel theme): How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Isaiah 53:3 (Parallel theme): He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Matthew 21:42 (Word): Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Mark 16:16 (Parallel theme): He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Matthew 25:31 (Parallel theme): When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: