

John 3:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Analysis

'He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.' The chapter concludes with the starkest contrast possible. Belief brings present possession of eternal life; unbelief means never seeing life while God's wrath 'abides'—continues to remain—upon the unbeliever. This isn't mere future consequence but present spiritual reality. Two conditions, two outcomes, no middle ground.

Historical Context

This verse summarizes John 3's message. The alternatives are absolute: life or wrath. The wrath 'abides'—it's humanity's natural condition, only removed by faith. This isn't God becoming angry at unbelievers; it's describing the state of those who remain in sin, refusing the remedy. John the Baptist ends his testimony with this solemn declaration.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does it mean that God's wrath 'abides' on unbelievers rather than merely awaits them?
2. How does this verse present eternal life as present possession rather than merely future hope?

Interlinear Text

ὁ	πιστεύων	εἰς	τὸν	υἱὸν	ἔχει	ζωὴν	αἰώνιον·	ὁ
G3588	He that believeth	on	G3588	the Son	hath	life	everlasting	G3588
	G4100	G1519		G5207	G2192	G2222	G166	
δὲ	ἀπειθῶν	τῷ	υἱὸν	οὐκ	ὄψεται	ζωὴν	ἀλλ'	ἡ
and	he that believeth not	G3588	the Son	not	see	life	but	G3588
G1161	G544		G5207	G3756	G3700	G2222	G235	
ὀργὴν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	μένει	ἐπ'	αὐτόν			
the wrath	G3588	of God	abideth	on	him			
G3709		G2316	G3306	G1909	G846			

Additional Cross-References

John 5:24 (Faith): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 1:12 (Faith): But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

Ephesians 5:6 (Judgment): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Judgment): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 5:9 (Judgment): Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

John 8:51 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

John 3:3 (References God): Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 10:28 (Eternal Life): And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Revelation 21:8 (Faith): 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.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 (Judgment): And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.