

John 7:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come?

Analysis

What manner of saying is this that he said, Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come? The Jews repeat Jesus's words in confusion. They cannot penetrate their meaning. This demonstrates the spiritual blindness Jesus predicted—without divine illumination, even explicit statements remain incomprehensible. Natural human reason cannot grasp spiritual realities without the Spirit's work (1 Corinthians 2:14).

Historical Context

Throughout John, Jesus's statements confuse hearers until spiritual enlightenment comes. Nicodemus confused new birth with physical rebirth (3:4); the Samaritan woman confused living water with well water (4:11); crowds confused bread from heaven with physical bread (6:34). Only post-resurrection and Pentecost did disciples fully understand. This pattern demonstrates humanity's desperate need for divine illumination.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. Why do spiritual truths remain incomprehensible to unregenerate minds?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in understanding Scripture?
3. How does this passage demonstrate humanity's need for revelation beyond human reasoning?

Interlinear Text

τίς	ἐστιν	οὗτος	ό	λόγος	ὅν	εἶπεν	Ζητήσετέ		
What	is	this	G3588	manner of saying	that	he said	Ye shall seek		
G5101	G2076	G3778		G3056	G3739	G2036	G2212		
με	καὶ	οὐ	εὑρήσετέ	καὶ	ὅπου	εἰμὶ	ἐγὼ	ὑμεῖς	οὐ
me	and	cannot	find	and	where	am	I	thither ye	cannot
G3165	G2532	G3756	G2147	G2532	G3699	G1510	G1473	G5210	G3756
δύνασθε	ἐλθεῖν								
G1410		come							
		G2064							

Additional Cross-References

John 7:34 (Parallel theme): Ye shall seek me, and shall not find me: and where I am, thither ye cannot come.

John 3:9 (Parallel theme): Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?