

Luke 13:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

Analysis

Jesus describes the anguish of the excluded: 'There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.' This phrase appears frequently in Jesus' teaching about final judgment (Matthew 8:12, 13:42, 13:50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30), indicating extreme anguish, regret, and rage. The excluded will see the patriarchs and prophets in God's kingdom while they themselves are 'thrust out,' forcibly expelled. The horror lies not merely in suffering but in the realization of irreversible loss—seeing the salvation they could have had but rejected.

Historical Context

Jewish theology assumed the patriarchs and prophets would be resurrected and honored in the messianic kingdom. Jesus affirms this but shocks His audience by suggesting many Jews will be excluded while Gentiles are included (v. 29). This reversal of expectations challenges ethnic privilege and religious presumption. The image of judgment as exclusion from a feast appears throughout Scripture (Matthew 22:1-14, 25:1-13, Revelation 19:9). The wedding banquet represents intimate fellowship with God, while exclusion represents eternal separation—the essence of hell.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does the image of seeing others in God's kingdom while being excluded yourself intensify the horror of judgment?
2. What does this verse teach about hell as not merely punishment but loss—missing the joy and fellowship for which we were created?
3. How should the reality of final judgment shape Christian urgency in evangelism and personal holiness?

Interlinear Text

ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὄδόντων
There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth
G1563 G2071 G3588 G2805 G3588 G1030 G3588 G3599

ὅταν ὅψησθε Ἀβραὰμ καὶ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακὼβ καὶ
when ye shall see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and
G3752 G3700 G11 G2532 G2464 G2532 G2384 G2532

πάντας τὸν προφήτας ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ τοῦ θεοῦ ὑμᾶς
all the prophets in the kingdom of God you
G3956 G4396 G1722 G3588 G932 G3588 G2316 G5209

δὲ ἐκβαλλομένους ἔξω
and yourselves thrust out
G1161 G1544 G1854

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 25:30 (Parallel theme): And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 22:13 (Kingdom): Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 21:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

2 Thessalonians 1:5 (Kingdom): Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org