

Luke 13:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

Analysis

Jesus reveals salvation's universal scope: 'And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.' This imagery echoes Isaiah 49:12, 59:19 and Psalm 107:3, prophecies about God gathering His scattered people. The four directions represent universality—people from all nations will enter God's kingdom. The phrase 'sit down' means to recline at a banquet, indicating intimate fellowship and celebration. This inclusion of Gentiles alongside patriarchs fulfills God's promise to Abraham that through him all nations would be blessed (Genesis 12:3, 22:18). The Kingdom is not ethnically exclusive but spiritually inclusive—all who believe, regardless of ethnicity, are welcomed.

Historical Context

This teaching prepared disciples for the Gentile mission that would dominate Acts and the epistles. Jewish exclusivism was a major obstacle to gospel expansion, requiring divine intervention (Acts 10-11) and apostolic councils (Acts 15) to overcome. Paul's missions deliberately targeted Gentiles after Jewish rejection (Acts 13:46, 18:6, 28:28). His letters emphasize that in Christ, ethnic and social distinctions become irrelevant—there is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female (Galatians 3:28). Jesus' teaching here provides the theological foundation for this radical inclusivity.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the promise of multi-ethnic worship in God's kingdom challenge contemporary forms of ethnic or cultural exclusivism in churches?
2. What does this verse teach about God's heart for all nations and the missionary obligation of the church?
3. How should the vision of people from all nations sharing intimate fellowship motivate efforts toward racial reconciliation and cross-cultural ministry?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἥξουσιν	ἀπὸ	ἀνατολῶν	καὶ	δυσμῶν	καὶ	ἀπὸ
And	they shall come	from	the east	And	from the west	And	from
G2532	G2240	G575	G395	G2532	G1424	G2532	G575
βορρᾶ	καὶ	νότου	καὶ	ἀνακλιθήσονται	ἐν	τῇ	
the north	And	from the south	And	shall sit down	in	G3588	
G1005	G2532	G3558	G2532	G347	G1722		
βασιλείᾳ	τοῦ	θεοῦ					
the kingdom	G3588	of God					
G932		G2316					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:6 (Parallel theme): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I

will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Isaiah 43:6 (Parallel theme): I will say to the north, Give up; and to the south, Keep not back: bring my sons from far, and my daughters from the ends of the earth;

Malachi 1:11 (Parallel theme): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.

Acts 28:28 (References God): Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Genesis 28:14 (Parallel theme): And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.