

Luke 19:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

Analysis

He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. The word eugenēs (εὐγενῆς, "nobleman") means someone of noble birth or high rank. This nobleman journeys eis chōran makran (εἰς χώραν μακράν, "into a far country") to labein heautō basileian (λαβεῖν ἔαυτῷ βασιλείαν, "receive for himself a kingdom") and then return. This detail reflects historical practice: client kings in the Roman Empire had to travel to Rome to receive official appointment from the emperor before returning to rule their territories.

The parable's nobleman represents Christ, who would ascend to heaven (the "far country") to receive His kingdom from the Father before returning in glory. The journey's length implies a period of absence—contradicting expectations of immediate manifestation. The purpose labein basileian ("to receive a kingdom") emphasizes that even Christ's authority comes by divine appointment, not human revolt. **His kingdom is established through heavenly investiture, not earthly insurrection.** The phrase "and to return" (kai hypostrepai, καὶ ὑποστρέψαι) anticipates the Second Coming, when Christ will return to judge and reign.

Historical Context

Jesus's audience would immediately recognize the historical parallel to Archelaus, son of Herod the Great, who traveled to Rome in 4 BC to receive confirmation as king of Judea from Caesar Augustus. A delegation of Jews followed him to oppose

his appointment (echoing v. 14). Though Augustus gave him the lesser title of ethnarch rather than king, the story was infamous in Jewish memory. By invoking this imagery, Jesus warns that His path to kingship involves rejection, absence, and eventual vindication—not the immediate triumph His followers expected.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the nobleman's journey to a far country parallel Christ's ascension and session at God's right hand?
2. What does the necessity of receiving the kingdom 'officially' teach about divine authority versus human power?
3. Why is the promise of return (Second Coming) essential to Christian hope and endurance?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	οὖν	Ἄνθρωπός	τις	εὐγενὴς	έπορεύθη	εἰς
He said	therefore	nobleman	A certain		went	into
G2036	G3767	G444	G5100	G2104	G4198	G1519
χώραν	μακρὰν	λαβεῖν	έαυτῷ	βασιλείαν	καὶ	
country	a far	to receive	for himself	a kingdom	and	
G5561	G3117	G2983	G1438	G932	G2532	
ὑποστρέψαι						
to return						
G5290						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:28 (Parallel theme): So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Luke 20:9 (Parallel theme): Then began he to speak to the people this parable; A certain man planted a vineyard, and let it forth to husbandmen, and went into a far country for a long time.

1 Peter 3:22 (Parallel theme): Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Revelation 1:7 (Parallel theme): Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Acts 17:31 (Parallel theme): Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Mark 12:1 (Parallel theme): And he began to speak unto them by parables. A certain man planted a vineyard, and set an hedge about it, and digged a place for the winefat, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country.

Mark 16:19 (Parallel theme): So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

1 Corinthians 15:25 (Kingdom): For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Matthew 21:38 (Parallel theme): But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.

John 18:37 (Kingdom): Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

