

Luke 19:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

Analysis

But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. The adversative *de* (δέ, "but") introduces opposition. The word *politai* (πολῖται, "citizens") refers to those under the nobleman's jurisdiction—his own people, not foreigners. The verb *emisoun* (ἐμίσουν, "hated") in imperfect tense indicates ongoing, settled hatred, not momentary dislike. This hatred prompts action: they send *presbeian* (πρεσβείαν, "a delegation" or "message") after him to protest his appointment, declaring *ou theloumen touton basileusai eph' hēmas* (οὐ θέλομεν τοῦτον βασιλεῦσαι ἐφ' ἡμᾶς, "We will not have this man to reign over us").

This detail historically parallels the Jewish delegation that followed Archelaus to Rome to oppose his kingship. Prophetically, it represents **Israel's rejection of Jesus as Messiah**—"We have no king but Caesar" (John 19:15). The citizens' refusal anticipates Jesus's coming rejection in Jerusalem. The phrase "this man" (*touton*, τοῦτον) drips with contempt—they won't even use his title. Their rebellion sets up the parable's climax: the nobleman returns with royal authority and judges his enemies (v. 27). Christ's rejected kingship now will become His vindicated kingship at His return.

Historical Context

When Archelaus went to Rome seeking kingship over Judea, a delegation of 50 Jewish leaders followed to petition Augustus against him, citing his brutality.

Though Augustus heard their complaint, he still appointed Archelaus (albeit as ethnarch, not king). Jesus's audience would recognize this historical reference and understand the parable's warning: rejecting the king doesn't prevent his eventual rule—it only ensures judgment for the rebels. The Jewish leaders' rejection of Christ would lead to the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 and their exclusion from the kingdom.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does the citizens' hatred of their rightful king parallel humanity's natural rebellion against God's rule?
2. What does the phrase 'We will not have this man to reign over us' reveal about the ultimate nature of unbelief?
3. How does this verse anticipate both Christ's rejection at His first coming and His vindication at His second?

Interlinear Text

οἱ	δὲ	πολιται	αὐτοῦ	ἐμίσουν	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	ἀπέστειλαν
G3588	But	citizens	him	hated	him	and	sent
	G1161	G4177	G846	G3404	G846	G2532	G649
πρεσβείαν	ὀπίσω	αὐτοῦ	λέγοντες	Οὐ	θέλομεν	τοῦτον	
a message	after	him	saying	not	We will	this	
G4242	G3694	G846	G3004	G3756	G2309	G5126	
βασιλεῦσαι	ἐφ'	ἡμᾶς					
man to reign	over	us					
G936	G1909	G2248					

Additional Cross-References

1 Samuel 8:7 (Kingdom): And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.

John 15:18 (Parallel theme): If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.

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