

Luke 19:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.

Analysis

The crowd's proclamation: 'Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.' This cry quotes and adapts Psalm 118:26, a messianic Psalm sung at Passover. The addition 'the King' (ὁ βασιλεὺς, ho basileus) makes the messianic claim explicit. The phrase 'peace in heaven' (ἐν οὐρανῷ εἰρήνη, en ouranō eirēnē) echoes the angels' birth announcement (Luke 2:14) but shifts the location from earth to heaven—Jesus' kingship establishes peace in the heavenly realm through His coming victory over Satan. 'Glory in the highest' (δόξα ἐν ὑψίστοις, doxa en hypsistois) ascribes supreme praise to God. This moment represents Israel's closest approach to recognizing Jesus as Messiah, though their understanding remained flawed—they expected political liberation, not sacrificial death.

Historical Context

Palm Sunday occurred during Passover week when Jerusalem swelled with pilgrims remembering deliverance from Egypt. Messianic fervor ran high during festivals. The crowd's enthusiasm was genuine but misdirected—they wanted a warrior-king to overthrow Rome, not a suffering servant to die for sins. Within days, many of these same voices would shout 'Crucify Him!' (Luke 23:21). Their fickle allegiance demonstrates the danger of superficial faith based on expectations of earthly benefits. Jesus wept over Jerusalem (v. 41) because He knew they were rejecting their only hope of true peace. Political hopes blinded

them to spiritual realities. The tragedy of misunderstood grace haunts this entire narrative.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How did the crowd's messianic expectations differ from Jesus' actual mission?
2. What causes the shift from 'Hosanna' on Palm Sunday to 'Crucify' on Good Friday?
3. How might contemporary Christians similarly misunderstand Jesus' kingdom and purposes?

Interlinear Text

λέγοντες Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος βασιλεὺς ἐν
Saying Blessed G3588 that cometh be the King in
G3004 G2127 G2064 G935 G1722

ὄνόματι κυρίου· εἰρήνη ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ δόξα ἐν
the name of the Lord peace in heaven and glory in
G3686 G2962 G1515 G1722 G3772 G2532 G1391 G1722

ὑψίστοις
the highest
G5310

Additional Cross-References

Luke 13:35 (Blessing): Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Zechariah 9:9 (Kingdom): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

Matthew 21:9 (Blessing): And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

1 Timothy 1:17 (Kingdom): Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 1:12 (Parallel theme): Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Ephesians 1:12 (Glory): That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Matthew 25:34 (Kingdom): Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Ephesians 1:6 (Glory): To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Romans 5:1 (Peace): Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:20 (Peace): And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.