

Luke 19:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it,

Analysis

Jesus weeps over Jerusalem: 'And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it.' As Jesus approached Jerusalem, 'he beheld the city' (ἰδὼν τὴν πόλιν, idōn tēn polin) 'and wept over it' (ἔκλαυσεν ἐπ' αὐτήν, eklausen ep' autēn). The verb 'eklausen' indicates loud, audible weeping, not quiet tears. This is one of two recorded instances of Jesus weeping (the other at Lazarus' tomb, John 11:35). His grief stems from knowing Jerusalem's coming judgment—within 40 years, Rome would destroy the city, killing thousands, ending the temple system (fulfilled AD 70). But deeper than temporal judgment, Jesus grieves over spiritual blindness that rejects salvation. Their hardness of heart breaks His tender heart. This scene reveals Christ's compassionate nature—He weeps over those who reject Him.

Historical Context

Jerusalem's destruction in AD 70 was one of history's great tragedies—hundreds of thousands died, the temple was razed, survivors were enslaved or scattered. Jesus predicted this catastrophe (Luke 21:20-24, Matthew 24:2). His tears demonstrate that divine judgment, though just, brings God no pleasure. Ezekiel 18:32 declares, 'I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth.' 2 Peter 3:9 affirms God is 'not willing that any should perish.' Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem embodies this divine grief. God must judge sin, but judgment pains Him. This contradicts caricatures of an angry, vengeful deity. Jesus' tears reveal God's heart: He longs for repentance, grieves over rejection, and finds no joy in necessary judgment.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' weeping over Jerusalem reveal about God's heart toward those who reject Him?
2. How should Christ's grief over the lost shape Christian attitudes in evangelism?
3. Does divine judgment contradict divine compassion, or can both coexist?

Interlinear Text

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|-------|-------|------------------|-----------|-------|----------|----------|-------|
| Kαὶ | ώς | ῆγγισεν | ἰδὼν | τὴν | πόλιν | ἔκλαυσεν | ἐπ' |
| And | when | he was come near | he beheld | G3588 | the city | and wept | over |
| G2532 | G5613 | G1448 | G1492 | | G4172 | G2799 | G1909 |

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Additional Cross-References

Psalms 119:158 (Parallel theme): I beheld the transgressors, and was grieved; because they kept not thy word.

Jeremiah 17:16 (Parallel theme): As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was right before thee.

John 11:35 (Parallel theme): Jesus wept.

Psalms 119:53 (Parallel theme): Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked that forsake thy law.

Psalms 119:136 (Parallel theme): Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.

Jeremiah 13:17 (Parallel theme): But if ye will not hear it, my soul shall weep in secret places for your pride; and mine eye shall weep sore, and run down with tears, because the LORD'S flock is carried away captive.

Jeremiah 9:1 (Parallel theme): Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!

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