

Luke 21:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

Analysis

For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth (ὥς παγὶς γὰρ ἐπεισελεύσεται ἐπὶ πάντας τοὺς καθημένους ἐπὶ πρόσωπον πάσης τῆς γῆς, hōs pagis gar epeiseleusetai epi pantas tous kathēmenous epi prosōpon pasēs tēs gēs)—Pagis (snare, trap) describes sudden, inescapable capture. The verb epeiserchomai (to come upon, rush in) in future tense guarantees certainty. The scope is universal: pantas tous kathēmenous epi prosōpon pasēs tēs gēs (all those dwelling on the face of the whole earth).

This echoes Old Testament prophetic warnings about the Day of the LORD (Joel 2:1-2, Zephaniah 1:14-18)—a day of reckoning for all humanity, not just Israel. The kathēmenous (dwelling, settling) implies those comfortably established in earthly life, unaware of impending judgment. A snare works through deception—the victim doesn't see it coming. Similarly, those absorbed in earthly concerns won't recognize eschatological signs until too late.

Historical Context

First-century Christians anticipated Christ's imminent return, but Jesus warns that 'that day' will affect all earth-dwellers regardless of expectation. The global scope challenges parochial views of judgment limited to Israel or Jerusalem. Revelation 3:10 promises believers will be kept 'from the hour of trial coming on the whole world.'

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the imagery of a snare emphasize the suddenness and inescapability of judgment for the unprepared?
2. What does the universal scope ('whole earth') teach about God's sovereignty and the gospel's global implications?
3. How can you avoid becoming so 'settled' in earthly dwelling that you lose awareness of eternal realities?

Interlinear Text

ὥς	παγὶς	γὰρ	ἐπελεύσεται	ἐπὶ	πάσης	τοὺς	καθημένους
as	a snare	For	shall it come	on	all	G3588	them that dwell
G5613	G3803	G1063	G1904	G1909	G3956		G2521

ἐπὶ	πρόσωπον	πάσης	τῆς	γῆς
on	the face	all	G3588	earth
G1909	G4383	G3956		G1093

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 16:15 (Parallel theme): Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.