

Luke 21:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

Analysis

Watch ye therefore, and pray always (ἀγρυπνεῖτε δὲ ἐν παντὶ καιρῷ δεόμενοι, agrypneite de en panti kairō deomenoi)—Agrypneō (to watch, be vigilant, stay awake) in present imperative commands continuous alertness. En panti kairō deomenoi (praying in every season/opportunity) uses present participle deomenoi (from deomai, to ask, petition, beseech) for habitual prayer. Vigilance and prayer form dual strategy against spiritual drowsiness.

That ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass (ἵνα κατισχύσητε ἐκφυγεῖν ταῦτα πάντα τὰ μέλλοντα γίνεσθαι, hina katischysēte ekphygein tauta panta ta mellonta ginesthai)—hina katischysēte (that you may prevail, be strong enough) expresses purpose. Ekphygein (to escape, flee out from) suggests not immunity from tribulation's presence but deliverance from its ultimate destruction. The phrase 'all these things about to happen' (tauta panta ta mellonta ginesthai) references both near events (Jerusalem's fall) and distant ones (final tribulation).

And to stand before the Son of man (καὶ σταθῆναι ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, kai stathēnai emprosthen tou huiou tou anthrōpou)—stathēnai (to stand) in aorist passive infinitive conveys eschatological standing at judgment/vindication. Standing 'before the Son of Man' echoes Daniel 7:13-14's vision of Messiah receiving kingdom. For believers, standing before Christ isn't terror but reward (Romans 14:10, 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Historical Context

Early church practiced vigilant prayer in expectation of Christ's return (Acts 1:14, 2:42, Colossians 4:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:17). The exhortation to 'escape' doesn't promise tribulation-free existence but persevering faith that endures to the end (Matthew 24:13). Church fathers like Tertullian and Cyprian encouraged watchfulness amid persecution.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How do watching and praying work together to maintain spiritual readiness for Christ's return?
2. What does being 'accounted worthy' teach about grace-enabled perseverance rather than earning salvation?
3. How should the prospect of 'standing before the Son of Man' motivate both holy living and confident hope?

Interlinear Text

ἀγρυπνεῖτε	οὖν	ἐν	πάντα	καιρῷ	δεόμενοι	ἵνα
Watch ye	therefore	always	all	G2540	and pray	that
G69	G3767	G1722	G3956		G1189	G2443
καταξιωθῆτε	ἐκφυγεῖν	ταῦτα	πάντα	τὰ		
ye may be accounted worthy	to escape	these things	all	G3588		
G2661	G1628	G5023	G3956			
μέλλοντα	γίνεσθαι	καὶ	σταθῆναι	ἔμπροσθεν	τοῦ	υἱοῦ
that shall	come to pass	and	to stand	before	G3588	the Son
G3195	G1096	G2532	G2476	G1715		G5207
τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου					
G3588	of man					
	G444					

Additional Cross-References

1 John 2:28 (Parallel theme): And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.

Matthew 25:13 (Parallel theme): Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

1 Peter 5:8 (Parallel theme): Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Matthew 24:42 (Parallel theme): Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

Luke 18:1 (Prayer): And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

1 Peter 4:7 (Prayer): But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

1 Corinthians 16:13 (Parallel theme): Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Mark 13:33 (Prayer): Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

Matthew 26:41 (Prayer): Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Prayer): Pray without ceasing.

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