

Luke 22:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.

Analysis

For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come. Jesus repeats the solemn vow structure from verse 16, again using emphatic double negative: **I will not drink** (οὐ μὴ πίω, ou mē piō, aorist subjunctive with ou mē). The fruit of the vine (τοῦ γενήματος τῆς ἀμπέλου, tou genēmatois tēs ampelou) is the liturgical phrase for wine in Jewish blessings, emphasizing natural origins—God's gift from vineyard to cup.

Until the kingdom of God shall come (ἔως οὗ ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ ἔλθῃ, heōs hou hē basileia tou theou elthē) points to Kingdom consummation. The Kingdom 'comes' in stages: inaugurated at Christ's first advent, advanced through the church age, consummated at His return. Jesus abstains until that final fulfillment when He drinks wine 'new' (Matthew 26:29) with His people at the eschatological banquet. This vow transforms the meal from memorial of past deliverance to anticipation of future glory—communion becomes both remembrance (anamnēsis) and foretaste (prolepsis) of the coming feast.

Historical Context

Wine symbolized covenant joy throughout Scripture (Psalm 104:15, Proverbs 3:10, John 2:1-11). The messianic age was portrayed as abundant wine (Amos 9:13-14, Joel 3:18). Jesus' vow to abstain heightens the tragedy of the cross—He who would give His blood refuses wine's comfort, taking only the 'cup' of God's wrath (Luke 22:42).

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' abstinence from wine 'until the kingdom comes' affect your understanding of His sacrifice and self-denial?
2. What does it mean that communion is both backward-looking (remembrance) and forward-looking (anticipation of the Kingdom)?
3. How should the promise that Jesus will drink wine 'new' with you in the Kingdom shape your hope and perseverance?

Interlinear Text

λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐ μὴ πίω ἀπὸ τοῦ γεννηματος
I say For unto you G3754 G3756 G3361 I will of G3588 the fruit
G3004 G1063 G5213 G4095 G575 G1081

τῆς ἀμπέλου ἔως ὅτου ἡ βασιλεία τοῦ θεοῦ ἔλθῃ
G3588 of the vine until G3755 G3588 the kingdom G3588 of God shall come
G288 G2193 G932 G2316 G2064

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 26:29 (Kingdom): But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

Mark 14:25 (Kingdom): Verily I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.

Luke 22:16 (Kingdom): For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God.

