

# Luke 22:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

## Analysis

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**That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom**—The messianic banquet imagery from Isaiah 25:6 and Matthew 8:11 promises intimate fellowship with Christ in the consummated kingdom. The disciples who shared Jesus's final Passover will share His eternal feast. **Sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel** (καθήσεσθε ἐπὶ θρόνων κρίνοντες, kathesesthe epi thronon krinontes)—Kingdom authority explicitly promised.

Judging (κρίνω, krino) means to rule or govern, not merely condemn. The Twelve will have administrative authority in the renewed creation, participating in Christ's reign (Revelation 3:21). This promise specifically addresses the twelve tribes, suggesting restoration of all Israel (Romans 11:26). The paradox is stunning: servants become kings, the humble are exalted, those who lose life for Christ's sake gain eternal dominion.

## Historical Context

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Jewish apocalyptic literature envisioned the righteous sharing Messiah's rule in the age to come. Jesus confirms this hope while redefining the path to glory—through servanthood, not military conquest. The specific mention of twelve thrones for twelve tribes echoes Israel's tribal structure and promises eschatological restoration beyond the northern kingdom's dispersion.

## Related Passages

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**1 Corinthians 13:4** — Characteristics of love

**1 John 4:8** — God is love

## Study Questions

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1. How does the promise of future ruling authority motivate present faithful service in humble, unseen ways?
2. What does it mean practically to live now as a future king/judge while serving in Christ-like humility?
3. How should the certainty of eschatological reward affect your response to current suffering or opposition for Christ's sake?

## Interlinear Text

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ἵνα ἐσθίητε καὶ πίνητε ἐπὶ τῆς τραπέζης μου ἐν τῇ  
That ye may eat and drink at G3588 table my in G3588  
G2443 G2068 G2532 G4095 G1909 G5132 G3450 G1722

βασιλείᾳ μου καὶ καθίσησθε ἐπὶ θρόνων κρίνοντες τὰς  
kingdom my and sit at thrones judging G3588  
G932 G3450 G2532 G2523 G1909 G2362 G2919

δώδεκα φυλὰς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ  
the twelve tribes of Israel G3588 G2474  
G1427 G5443

## Additional Cross-References

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**Matthew 19:28** (References Israel): And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

**Matthew 8:11** (Kingdom): And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

**Revelation 3:21** (Parallel theme): To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

**Luke 12:37** (Parallel theme): Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them.

**Luke 14:15** (Kingdom): And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

**Revelation 19:9** (Parallel theme): And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

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