

Luke 9:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

Analysis

But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God. The solemn formula *legō de hymin alēthōs* (λέγω δὲ ὑμῖν ἀληθῶς, "But I tell you truly") introduces authoritative revelation. The phrase "taste of death" (*geusōntai thanatou, γεύσωνται θανάτου*) is Hebrew idiom for experiencing death. Jesus promises that **some standing here** would witness **the kingdom of God** (*tēn basileian tou Theou, τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ*) before dying.

This prediction finds fulfillment in multiple ways:

1. The Transfiguration six days later (v. 28), where Peter, James, and John witnessed Christ's glory—a preview of the kingdom
2. The resurrection and ascension
3. Pentecost and the Spirit's coming
4. The destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, vindicating Christ and establishing the new covenant order.

The primary reference is the Transfiguration, which Matthew calls **the Son of man coming in his kingdom** (Matthew 16:28). This demonstrates the kingdom's present reality, not merely future hope—inaugurated eschatology.

Historical Context

Jewish apocalyptic expectation anticipated a single cataclysmic event establishing God's kingdom—violent overthrow of Rome, resurrection of the dead, final judgment, and Messianic reign. Jesus redefines kingdom theology: the kingdom comes progressively through His death, resurrection, Spirit outpouring, and church growth, culminating in the parousia. The disciples struggled to comprehend this inaugurated eschatology—kingdom already present yet not fully consummated. The Transfiguration provided empirical evidence that Jesus' kingdom claims were true, strengthening the apostles for the scandal of the cross. Peter later cited the Transfiguration as validation of Christ's power and coming (2 Peter 1:16-18).

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the Transfiguration as a preview of Christ's kingdom glory help you endure present suffering and wait patiently for His return?
2. What does inaugurated eschatology—kingdom already present but not yet fully consummated—mean for Christian living now?
3. How should the certainty that some disciples witnessed the kingdom's power motivate confidence in the gospel despite delayed parousia?

Interlinear Text

λέγω δὲ ὅμιν ἀληθῶς εἰσίν τινες τῶν ὡδε ἔστηκότων
I tell But you of a truth there be some G3588 here standing
G3004 G1161 G5213 G230 G1526 G5100 G5602 G2476

οἵ οὐ μὴ γεύσονται θανάτου ἔως ἂν ἴδωσιν τὴν
which G3756 G3361 shall of death till they see G3588
G3739 G1089 G2288 G2193 G1492

βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ
the kingdom of God
G932 G3588 G2316

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 16:28 (Kingdom): Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Mark 9:1 (Kingdom): And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

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