

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	ὕμῖν	ἀληθῶς	εἰσὶν	τινες	τῶν	ᾧδε	ἐστηκότων
I tell	But	you	of a truth	there be	some	G3588	here	standing
G3004	G1161	G5213	G230	G1526	G5100		G5602	G2476
οἱ	οὐ	μὴ	γεύσονται	θανάτου	ἕως	ἂν	ἴδωσιν	τὴν
which	G3756	G3361	shall	of death	till	G302	they see	G3588
G3739			G1089	G2288	G2193		G1492	
βασιλείαν	τοῦ	θεοῦ						
the kingdom	G3588	of God						
G932		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.