

Mark 9:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Jesus' promise 'some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power' (οὐ μὴ γεύσωνται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσιν τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει) has sparked interpretive debate. The phrase 'taste of death' (geusōntai thanatou) is a Hebraic idiom for experiencing death. Reformed interpreters traditionally understand this as referring to the Transfiguration (occurring six days later, Mark 9:2), where Peter, James, and John witness Christ's glory—a preview of kingdom power. Others see fulfillment in Christ's resurrection, Pentecost, or the destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70) vindicating Christ's claims. The phrase 'come with power' (elelythuian en dynamei) suggests a decisive demonstration of God's sovereign rule. The kingdom comes 'already but not yet'—inaugurated in Christ's ministry, demonstrated at Transfiguration and resurrection, advancing through the Spirit, consummated at Christ's return.

Historical Context

This statement followed Peter's confession (Mark 8:29) and Jesus' first passion prediction (Mark 8:31), creating tension between messianic glory and suffering. First-century Jews expected the Messiah to establish visible, political kingdom immediately. Jesus' teaching about suffering and death seemed to contradict kingdom hopes. His promise that some would see the kingdom 'come with power' before death reassured disciples that kingdom reality transcended political

expectations. The Transfiguration (six days later) provided visible confirmation—Moses and Elijah appeared, Jesus shone with divine glory, and the Father affirmed His Son. Early church fathers (Origen, Chrysostom, Augustine) debated whether this referred to Transfiguration, resurrection, or Pentecost.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does the 'already but not yet' nature of God's kingdom shape your expectations for experiencing His power in this age versus the age to come?
2. What does Jesus' promise reveal about God's faithfulness to provide glimpses of future glory even in seasons of present suffering?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	λέγω	αὐτοῖς	Ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	ὅτι	εἰσὶν	τινες
And	I say	unto them	Verily	I say	unto you	That	there be	some
G2532	G3004	G846	G281	G3004	G5213	G3754	G1526	G5100
τῶν	ᾧδε	ἐστηκότων	οἵτινες	οὐ	μὴ	γεύσωνται		
G3588	here	of them that stand	which	G3756	G3361	shall		
	G5602	G2476	G3748			G1089		
θανάτου	ἕως	ἂν	ἴδωσιν	τὴν	βασιλείαν	τοῦ	θεοῦ	
of death	till	G302	they have seen	G3588	the kingdom	G3588	of God	
G2288	G2193		G1492		G932		G2316	
ἐληλυθυῖαν	ἐν	δυνάμει						
come	with	power						
G2064	G1722	G1411						

Additional Cross-References

Luke 9:27 (Kingdom): 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.

Mark 13:30 (Parallel theme): Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done.

Hebrews 2:9 (References God): But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Matthew 25:31 (Parallel theme): When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

Luke 22:30 (Kingdom): That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Mark 13:26 (Parallel theme): And then shall they see the Son of man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

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.

Matthew 24:30 (Parallel theme): And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Luke 2:26 (Parallel theme): And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Luke 22:18 (Kingdom): For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come.