

Matthew 11:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?

Analysis

Jesus doesn't directly answer 'yes' but provides evidence: 'Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see' (πορευθεντες απαγγειλατε Ιωαννη ακουετε και βλεπετε). Jesus appeals to observable facts: what they 'hear and see' (ακουετε και βλεπετε). He then lists miracles: 'The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.' This catalog echoes Isaiah 35:5-6 and 61:1—messianic prophecies. Jesus essentially says: examine the evidence; Messiah's credentials are present. Faith rests not on subjective feelings but objective fulfillment of Scripture. The evidence authenticates Jesus' identity.

Historical Context

Isaiah prophesied messianic age would bring miraculous healings and gospel to the poor. Jesus' ministry fulfilled these prophecies precisely. Jewish expectation included these signs alongside political liberation. Jesus separated the signs, fulfilling healing prophecies while redefining messianic kingdom as primarily spiritual. His answer to John appeals to Scripture's authority: prophecy being fulfilled proves messianic identity. Early Christians used this same apologetic: Jesus fulfilled prophecy, therefore He is Messiah (Acts 2:22-36).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' appeal to evidence strengthen faith amid doubt?
2. What role should observable fulfillment of Scripture play in confirming faith?
3. How can we point doubting believers to objective evidences of God's faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	αὐτῷ	Σὺ	εἶ	ὁ	ἐρχόμενος	ἢ	ἕτερον
And said	unto him	thou	Art	G3588	he that should come	or	for another
G2036	G846	G4771	G1488		G2064	G2228	G2087

προσδοκῶμεν

do we look

G4328

Additional Cross-References

John 11:27 (Parallel theme): She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Malachi 3:1 (Parallel theme): Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

Hebrews 10:37 (Parallel theme): For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

