

Matthew 13:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Analysis

And shall cast them into a furnace of fire (κάμινον τοῦ πυρός, kaminon tou pyros)—the same phrase used in Daniel 3:6 LXX for Nebuchadnezzar's furnace, here denoting hell's conscious torment. **There shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth** (ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων, ho klauthmos kai ho brygmos tōn odontōn)—a repeated phrase in Matthew (8:12, 13:50, 22:13, 24:51, 25:30) depicting extreme anguish and furious regret.

The definite article ('the furnace') suggests a specific, prepared place of punishment (Matthew 25:41—'everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels'). The combination of weeping (grief) and teeth-gnashing (rage) indicates both sorrow over loss and anger at judgment. This is not annihilation or soul-sleep but conscious, eternal punishment—the most sobering reality in Scripture.

Historical Context

Jesus's teaching on hell is more explicit than any Old Testament text. Writing around AD 60-70, Matthew preserves Jesus's warnings for the early church facing persecution—the martyrs' faithfulness is vindicated by the reality of divine justice. Modern Christianity often minimizes hell, but Jesus spoke of it repeatedly and unflinchingly.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How should the reality of eternal conscious punishment shape your evangelism, parenting, and pastoral care?
2. What does the 'gnashing of teeth' (rage) reveal about the impenitent human heart even under judgment?
3. Can you maintain Jesus's balance—warning of hell without legalism, offering grace without presumption?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	βαλοῦσιν	αὐτοὺς	εἰς	τὴν	κάμινον	τοῦ	πυρός·	ἐκεῖ
And	shall cast	them	into	G3588	a furnace	G3588	of fire	there
G2532	G906	G846	G1519		G2575		G4442	G1563
ἔσται	ὁ	κλαυθμός	καὶ	ὁ	βρυγμός	τῶν	ὀδόντων	
shall be	G3588	wailing	And	G3588	gnashing	G3588	of teeth	
G2071		G2805	G2532		G1030		G3599	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 13:50 (Parallel theme): And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 8:12 (Parallel theme): But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Revelation 20:10 (Parallel theme): And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Revelation 14:10 (Parallel theme): The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

Revelation 19:20 (Parallel theme): And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Matthew 22:13 (Parallel theme): Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 25:41 (Parallel theme): Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Daniel 3:6 (Parallel theme): And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.