

Matthew 16:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Analysis

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels (μέλλει γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἔρχεσθαι ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων αὐτοῦ)—The future μέλλει ἔρχεσθαι ('is about to come') declares certain future reality. Jesus identifies Himself as 'the Son of Man' (ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου), the Danielic figure who receives eternal dominion (Daniel 7:13-14). Coming ἐν τῇ δόξῃ ('in the glory') shows His second coming will be radically different from His first—not humble obscurity but radiant majesty. He comes μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων αὐτοῦ ('with His angels'), demonstrating sovereign command over angelic hosts.

And then he shall reward every man according to his works (καὶ τότε ἀποδώσει ἑκάστῳ κατὰ τὴν πράξιν αὐτοῦ)—The verb ἀποδίδωμι (apodidōmi, 'to give back, to render, to recompense') indicates just recompense. Each (ἕκαστος) individual receives reward κατὰ τὴν πράξιν ('according to the practice/deed'). This isn't salvation by works but reward according to works (1 Corinthians 3:12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:10). Christians are saved by grace through faith but judged for rewards based on faithful stewardship.

Historical Context

This teaching follows Peter's confession (16:16) and Jesus's first passion prediction (16:21). Jesus juxtaposes His coming suffering with His future glory—He will be rejected, killed, and raised, but ultimately return as Judge. This pattern

(humiliation then exaltation) defines not only Christ's path but all faithful disciples (16:24-26). The early church lived in expectation of Christ's return, shaping ethics around accountability at His coming (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does certainty of Christ's return and judgment affect your daily choices and priorities?
2. What does judgment 'according to works' teach about the necessity of persevering faithfulness after initial salvation?

Interlinear Text

μέλλει	γὰρ	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	ἔρχεσθαι	ἐν	τῇ
shall	For	G3588	the Son	G3588	of man	come	in	G3588
G3195	G1063		G5207		G444	G2064	G1722	
δόξη	τοῦ	πατρὸς	αὐτοῦ	μετὰ	τῶν	ἀγγέλων	αὐτοῦ	καὶ
the glory	G3588	Father	his	with	G3588	angels	his	and
G1391		G3962	G846	G3326		G32	G846	G2532
τότε	ἀποδώσει	ἐκάστω	κατὰ	τὴν	πρᾶξιν	αὐτοῦ		
then	he shall reward	every man	according	G3588	works	his		
G5119	G591	G1538	G2596		G4234	G846		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 62:12 (Parallel theme): Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (Parallel theme): For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Romans 2:6 (Parallel theme): Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

Romans 14:12 (Parallel theme): So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Jeremiah 17:10 (Parallel theme): I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Ephesians 6:8 (Parallel theme): Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.

Proverbs 24:12 (Parallel theme): If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Jude 1:14 (Parallel theme): And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

Revelation 2:23 (Parallel theme): And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Revelation 20:12 (Parallel theme): And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.