

# Matthew 16:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

## Analysis

**Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death** (ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσίν τινες τῶν ὃδε ἐστώτων οἵτινες οὐ μὴ γεύσωνται θανάτου)—The solemn ἀμὴν (truly, verily) introduces weighty truth. The phrase οὐ μὴ γεύσωνται θανάτου ('will never taste death') uses the strongest Greek negative, guaranteeing some present will survive until seeing **the Son of man coming in his kingdom** (ἔως ἂν ἴδωσιν τὸν νίὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐρχόμενον ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ αὐτοῦ). This controversial verse is best understood as fulfilled in the Transfiguration (17:1-8, occurring six days later), where Peter, James, and John saw Christ's glory, Moses and Elijah (representing Law and Prophets), and heard the Father's voice—a preview of kingdom glory.

Alternatively, some see fulfillment in Pentecost (Acts 2) when the Spirit inaugurated Christ's kingdom reign, or in AD 70's Jerusalem destruction demonstrating Christ's judgment authority. The immediate context (following discussion of Christ's return, 16:27) and the transitional 'And after six days' (17:1) strongly link this to the Transfiguration—a proleptic glimpse of Christ's eschatological glory.

## Historical Context

Jesus spoke this around AD 29-30, roughly six days before the Transfiguration. The promise that 'some' (not all) would see this indicates select disciples would witness

it—Peter, James, and John became the inner circle privileged to witness Jesus's glory (17:1), raising of Jairus's daughter (Mark 5:37), and Gethsemane agony (26:37). These three would indeed not taste death before seeing Christ's glory manifested.

## Related Passages

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**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Genesis 1:1** — Creation of heavens and earth

## Study Questions

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1. How does the Transfiguration as a preview of Christ's kingdom glory strengthen your hope in His promised return?
2. What does Jesus selecting only three disciples teach about God's sovereign distribution of revelation and privilege?

## Interlinear Text

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ἀμὴν	λέγω	ὑμῖν	εἰσίν	τινες	τῶν	ὢδε	έστηκότων,
<b>Verily</b>	<b>I say</b>	<b>unto you</b>	<b>There be</b>	<b>some</b>	G3588	<b>here</b>	<b>standing</b>
G281	G3004	G5213	G1526	G5100		G5602	G2476
οἵτινες	οὐ	μὴ	γεύσωνται	θανάτου	ἔως	ἄν	ἴδωσιν τὸν
<b>which</b>	G3756	G3361	<b>shall</b>	<b>of death</b>	G2193	<b>till</b>	<b>they see</b>
G3748			G1089	G2288		G302	G1492
υἱὸν	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	ἐρχόμενον	ἐν	τῇ	βασιλείᾳ	αὐτοῦ
<b>the Son</b>	G3588	<b>of man</b>	<b>coming</b>	<b>in</b>	G3588	<b>kingdom</b>	G846
G5207		G444	G2064	G1722		G932	

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.

**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.

**John 8:52** (Parallel theme): Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.

**Matthew 26:64** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

**Matthew 10:23** (Parallel theme): But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.

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

**Hebrews 2:9** (Parallel theme): 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.

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