

Matthew 19:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Analysis

Peter's statement 'we have forsaken all, and followed thee' is both true and somewhat self-congratulatory. Jesus' response (19:28-30) promises reward for faithful disciples while warning against mercenary motivation. The phrase 'in the regeneration' (Greek 'palingenesia'—new birth, renewal) refers to the new creation when Christ returns. Reformed eschatology sees believers reigning with Christ in the renewed earth. This verse shows discipleship costs everything but receives abundantly more in return.

Historical Context

The Twelve had literally left occupations, families, and security to follow Jesus. Peter's reminder isn't entirely wrong—they had sacrificed much. Jesus acknowledges this while pointing to future reward in the messianic kingdom. 'Sitting on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel' (19:28) indicates apostolic authority in the eschatological kingdom, fulfilled partially in church leadership, ultimately in new creation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What have you truly forsaken to follow Christ?
2. How can you maintain sacrificial discipleship without mercenary motives?
3. What future reward most motivates your present faithfulness?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῦ Ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι
which And Jesus said unto them Verily I say unto you That
G3588 G1161 G2424 G2036 G846 G281 G3004 G5213 G3754

ὕμεῖς τοῦ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι ἐν τοῦ παλιγγενεσία
ye which have followed me in which the regeneration
G5210 G3588 G190 G3427 G1722 G3588 G3824

ὅταν καθίσεσθε τοῦ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνους
when shall sit which the Son which of man in the throne
G3752 G2523 G3588 G5207 G3588 G444 G1909 G2362

δόξης αὐτοῦ καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους
glory unto them shall sit also ye in the twelve the throne
G1391 G846 G2523 G2532 G5210 G1909 G1427 G2362

κρίνοντες τοῦ δώδεκα φυλὰς τοῦ Ἰσραήλ
judging which the twelve tribes which of Israel
G2919 G3588 G1427 G5443 G3588 G2474

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 25:31 (Glory): 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:

Revelation 20:4 (References Jesus): And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were

beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Isaiah 65:17 (Parallel theme): For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.

Isaiah 66:22 (Parallel theme): For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.

2 Peter 3:13 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Matthew 16:27 (Glory): 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.

Revelation 7:4 (References Israel): And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Revelation 21:5 (Parallel theme): And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Revelation 4:4 (Parallel theme): And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

Revelation 3:21 (Parallel theme): To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.