

Matthew 23:39

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Analysis

For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord (λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν, οὐ μή με ἰδητε ἀπ' ἅρτι ἔως ἀν εἴπητε, Εὐλογημένος ὁ ἐρχόμενος ἐν ὀνόματι κυρίου)—The double negative οὐ μή ('never, by no means') with aorist subjunctive gives strongest denial: they will absolutely not see Him ἀπ' ἅρτι ('from now') until (ἔως ἀν) they say the messianic acclamation from Psalm 118:26. Jesus declares judicial abandonment of unbelieving Israel—divine presence withdraws. The Shekinah glory once filled the temple (1 Kings 8:10-11); now Christ's glory departs (Ezekiel 10:18-19).

The citation of Psalm 118:26 looks to Christ's second coming when 'all Israel will be saved' (Romans 11:26). The remnant will recognize Jesus as Messiah, crying 'Blessed is He who comes in the Lord's name!' The crowds spoke these words at Triumphal Entry (21:9), but the nation must corporately confess Christ before seeing Him again. This promise guarantees Israel's future salvation (Zechariah 12:10; 13:1), showing God's covenant faithfulness despite present rejection. Judgment isn't final; mercy triumphs.

Historical Context

Jesus spoke this in the temple courts (23:1), His final public discourse before the Olivet Discourse (24:1-25:46). Chapter 23's seven woes condemned scribes and Pharisees' hypocrisy. This climactic verse pronounces judgment: Christ's glory

departs from Israel until repentance. In AD 70, Rome destroyed temple and city—visible judgment. But verse 39 promises restoration when Israel recognizes her Messiah. Paul develops this in Romans 9-11: Israel's hardening is partial and temporary until 'the fullness of the Gentiles' comes (Romans 11:25).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's withdrawal from those who persistently reject Him warn against presuming on God's patience?
2. What does God's promise of Israel's future restoration teach about His faithfulness despite human unfaithfulness?

Interlinear Text

λέγω	γὰρ	ὑμῖν	οὐ	μή	με	ἴδητε	ἀπ'	ἄρτι	ἔως	ἄν
I say	for	to you	no	not	Me	shall you see	from	now	until	
G3004	G1063	G4771	G3756	G3361	G1473	G3708	G575	G737	G2193	G302

εἴπητε	Εὐλογημένος	ό	ἐρχόμενος	ἐν	ὄνόματι
you say	Blessed is	the One	coming	in	the name
G2036	G2127	G3588	G2064	G1722	G3686

Kυρίου

of the Lord

G2962

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:26 (Blessing): Blessed be he that cometh in the name of the LORD: we have blessed you out of the house of the LORD.

Matthew 21:9 (Blessing): And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Romans 11:25 (Parallel theme): For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org