

Matthew 24:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Analysis

Two women shall be grinding at the mill—The Greek *alēthō* (ἀλήθω) describes hand-mill grain grinding, daily women's work in first-century households. **The one shall be taken, and the other left**—identical language to verse 40, reinforcing the pattern. Two women, same work, same location, radically different eternal destinies. External similarity conceals internal reality.

The repetition (two men, two women) emphasizes universality—no occupation, gender, or location exempts anyone from this division. The mill scene pictures life's routines continuing until the moment of Christ's return. These aren't 'end-times tribulation scenarios' but the normal course of life interrupted by the Day of the Lord. The 'taking' remains judicial removal, not blessed escape.

Historical Context

Women ground grain daily using two millstones—hard, monotonous work often done in pairs or groups (Exodus 11:5, Job 31:10). The handmill (*mylos*, μύλος) was essential household equipment. Jesus again chooses mundane activity to illustrate eternal stakes. In AD 70, two women might be grinding when Roman armies arrived; at the Second Coming, the pattern repeats cosmically.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What daily routines tempt you to forget that this could be the day Christ returns?
2. How can you maintain spiritual vigilance while engaged in necessary but monotonous tasks?
3. If you were grinding at the mill with someone today, would you know which of you would be 'taken' and which 'left'?

Interlinear Text

δύο	ἀλήθουσai	ἐν	τῷ	μύλῳ·	μία
Two	women shall be grinding	at	the mill		
G1417	G229	G1722	G3588	G3459	G1520

παραλαμβάνεται	καὶ	μία	ἀφίεται
shall be taken	and		left
G3880	G2532	G1520	G863

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 47:2 (Parallel theme): Take the millstones, and grind meal: uncover thy locks, make bare the leg, uncover the thigh, pass over the rivers.

Exodus 11:5 (Parallel theme): And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts.

Luke 17:35 (Parallel theme): Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left.