

Matthew 25:19

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

Analysis

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them—The phrase meta polun chronon (μετὰ πολὺν χρόνον, after much time) reflects the already/not yet tension of Christ's kingdom. His return seemed delayed even to first-century believers (2 Peter 3:4), testing whether servants would maintain faithfulness across decades.

Reckoneth translates synairei logon (συναίρει λόγον), literally 'settles accounts'—a commercial term for final audit. This is the bema judgment where believers' works are evaluated (1 Cor 3:12-15, 2 Cor 5:10). The reckoning is personal (met' autōn, with them), individualized, and unavoidable.

Historical Context

Wealthy Romans often spent years in distant provinces managing political careers or legal disputes. Servants operated with considerable autonomy during these absences, knowing that eventual return and accounting was certain. The 'long time' tested whether servants served from love or merely fear of immediate consequences.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Does Christ's delayed return tempt you to live as though there will be no accounting?
2. How would your daily stewardship change if you knew Christ would return tomorrow?
3. Are you prepared to give account for every resource, opportunity, and gift He's entrusted to you?

Interlinear Text

μετ'	δὲ	χρόνον	πολὺν	ἔρχεται	ὁ	κύριος	τῶν	δούλων
with	After	time	a long	cometh	G3588	the lord	G3588	servants
G3326	G1161	G5550	G4183	G2064		G2962		G1401
ἐκείνων	καὶ	συναίρει	μετ'	αὐτῶν	λόγον			
of those	and	reckoneth	with	them	G3056			
G1565	G2532	G4868	G3326	G846				

Additional Cross-References

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.
