

Matthew 25:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Analysis

The King's judgment 'Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels' pronounces eternal condemnation. 'Depart from me' is the most terrifying sentence—eternal separation from God's presence. 'Ye cursed' contrasts with 'ye blessed' (v. 34)—under divine condemnation, not favor. 'Everlasting fire' describes hell's eternal, conscious torment. Significantly, hell was 'prepared for the devil and his angels'—humanity's judgment results from joining Satan's rebellion, not God's original intent for mankind.

Historical Context

This sobering verdict reminds us hell is real, eternal, and terrible. The 'everlasting fire' wasn't created for humans but for Satan and demons. Humans enter hell by rejecting Christ, thus allying with Satan. The same evidence (treatment of 'the least,' vv. 42-43) used for acquittal condemns the goats—revealing hearts by actions.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does the reality of eternal judgment motivate your evangelism and holy living?
2. What does hell being 'prepared for the devil' teach about why humans go there?

Interlinear Text

Τότε	έρει	καὶ	τοῖς	ἐξ	εὐωνύμων	Πορεύεσθε			
Then	shall he say	also	G3588	unto them on	the left hand	Depart			
G5119	G2046	G2532		G1537	G2176	G4198			
ἀπ'	ἐμοῦ	οἱ	κατηραμένοι	εἰς	τὸ	πῦρ	τὸ	αἰώνιον	τὸ
from	me	G3588	ye cursed	into	G3588	fire	G3588	everlasting	G3588
G575	G1700		G2672	G1519	G4442		G166		
ἡτοιμασμένοι	τῷ	διαβόλῳ	καὶ	τοῖς	ἀγγέλοις	αὐτῷ			
prepared	G3588	for the devil	also	G3588	angels	his			
G2090		G1228	G2532	G32		G846			

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 2:4 (Parallel theme): For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

Matthew 13:42 (Parallel theme): And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:40 (Parallel theme): As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

2 Thessalonians 1:9 (Eternal Life): Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Matthew 3:12 (Parallel theme): Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Matthew 7:23 (Parallel theme): And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

John 8:44 (Evil): Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Hebrews 6:8 (Parallel theme): But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

Isaiah 66:24 (Parallel theme): And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcases of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Matthew 13:50 (Parallel theme): And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.