

Matthew 8:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Analysis

The sobering phrase 'the children of the kingdom shall be cast into outer darkness' refers to ethnic Israel who presumed covenant privilege guaranteed salvation despite unbelief. 'Outer darkness' with 'weeping and gnashing of teeth' describes hell's eternal conscious punishment—removal from God's presence and all goodness. This demonstrates that covenant privilege increases judgment when rejected, and that mere external connection to God's people doesn't save without personal faith in Christ.

Historical Context

This warning anticipated the devastating judgment on unbelieving Israel culminating in AD 70's destruction of Jerusalem, but primarily refers to final eschatological judgment. Those who rejected their Messiah despite prophetic preparation and covenant privilege face severest condemnation.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does the judgment of 'children of the kingdom' teach about the danger of presuming religious heritage equals salvation?
2. How should the reality of eternal judgment motivate both personal faith and evangelistic urgency?

Interlinear Text

οἱ δὲ υἱοὶ τῆς βασιλείας ἐκβληθήσονται εἰς τὸ¹
G3588 But the children G3588 of the kingdom shall be cast out into G3588
G1161 G5207 G932 G1544 G1519

σκότος τὸ ἐξώτερον· ἐκεῖ ἔσται ὁ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὁ²
darkness G3588 outer there shall be G3588 weeping and G3588
G4655 G1857 G1563 G2071 G2805 G2532

βρυγμὸς τῶν ὀδόντων
gnashing G3588 of teeth G3599

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 25:30 (Darkness): And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Luke 13:28 (Kingdom): There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out.

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

Matthew 21:43 (Kingdom): Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

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

Matthew 24:51 (Parallel theme): And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Jude 1:13 (Darkness): Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever.

2 Peter 2:4 (Darkness): 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;

2 Peter 2:17 (Darkness): These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

Romans 9:4 (Parallel theme): Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;