

**An Idiom of Judgment  
in Matthew's Gospel**

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**Weeping and  
Gnashing of  
Teeth**



# **“Weeping and gnashing of teeth”**

- **Weeping signifies sorrowful crying**
- **Gnashing of teeth shows extreme suffering & remorse**
- **Jesus uses this expression to show pictures**
  - **darkness (Matt 8:12; 22:13; 25:30; Luke 13:28)**
  - **fire (Matt 13:42, 50)**
  - **being cut to pieces (24:51)**



# “Weeping and Gnashing of Teeth”

- All 7 uses of the phrase = preceded by the adverb “ekei” meaning “there in that place”
- The suffering of the wicked in hell itself
- Weeping and gnashing can only be done by people who exist
- Impossible for annihilated to cry & grind teeth



# Matthew 8:12

**“But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”**

- **Context=faith of the Centurion**
- **Subjects of the kingdom = Jewish leaders rejecting Christ**
- **Recipients = those of no faith**





# **Matthew 13:42**

- **Broader context = parables of the kingdom**
- **Immediate context = parables of the weeds explained**
- **Explanation of each part referring to end times**
- **Thrown into blazing furnace**
- **Righteous will shine like the sun**





# Matthew 13:50

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- Immediate context = parable of fishing net
- Kingdom of heaven is like
- Separation of wicked from righteous
- Thrown into a blazing furnace
- 2 of 6 references in kingdom parables!
- Why is this so?
- What is there about the nature of the kingdom that invites this picture of judgment?

# **Matthew 22:13**

- **Parable of wedding banquet**
- **Invitation**
- **Response**
- **Streets, gathering all people = original rejection**
- **Murderers destroyed**
- **Man not properly prepared; tie hand & foot**
- **Many invited, but few chosen**





# Matthew 24:51

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- Day and hour unknown
- Who is the faithful & wise servant?
- Wicked, lack of accountability, and says to himself . . .
- Violent, glutton, drunkard
- Unexpected return
- Cut to pieces, assign place with the hypocrites, weeping and gnashing of teeth



# Matthew 25:30

- Parable of the talents
- Man going on a journey, entrusts wealth to servants
  - 1 talent
  - 5 talents
  - 10 talents
- What each servant did
- Lord's response to each
- Throw that worthless servant into outer darkness

