

1 Peter 3:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God;
angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto
him.

Analysis

Peter concludes with Christ's exaltation. "Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God" (hos estin en dexia theou, poreutheis eis ouranon). Christ ascended to heaven's throne, seated at God's right hand—position of authority, honor, power. The cosmic submission: "angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him" (hypotage ntōn autō angelōn kai exousiōn kai dynameōn). All spiritual beings—angels (good), authorities and powers (likely fallen angels/demons)—submit to Christ's supreme authority. Nothing in creation exceeds Christ's power. This cosmic Christology assures believers: their Savior reigns supreme over all, ensuring ultimate victory and present protection.

Historical Context

Early church confessed Christ's ascension and session (sitting at God's right hand) as core doctrine (Apostles' Creed). This fulfilled Psalm 110:1 ("Sit at my right hand"). Christ's exaltation vindicated His claims, demonstrated His deity, established His cosmic rule. For persecuted Christians, this truth provided enormous comfort—their Lord ruled supreme over Roman emperors, pagan deities, demonic powers. All authorities (earthly and spiritual) ultimately submit to Christ. Early church saw Christ's session as guaranteeing eventual justice—He will return to judge and establish visible kingdom. Meanwhile, invisible rule ensures providence, protection, and ultimate victory for His people.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's cosmic authority over all spiritual powers provide comfort when facing earthly persecution or spiritual warfare?
2. What does Christ's position 'at God's right hand' signify about His current activity and future return?

Interlinear Text

ὅς	ἐστίν	ἐν	δεξιᾷ	τοῦ	θεοῦ	πορευθεὶς	εἰς
Who	and is	on	the right hand		of God	is gone	into
G3739	G2076	G1722	G1188	G3588	G2316	G4198	G1519
οὐρανόν	ὑποταγέντων	αὐτῷ	ἀγγέλων	καὶ	ἐξουσιῶν	καὶ	
heaven	being made subject	unto him	angels	and	authorities	and	
G3772	G5293	G846	G32	G2532	G1849	G2532	
δυνάμεων							
powers							
G1411							

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 9:24 (Creation): For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Hebrews 12:2 (References God): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 10:12 (References God): But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Mark 16:19 (References God): So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Hebrews 6:20 (Creation): Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 8:1 (Parallel theme): Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Colossians 3:1 (References God): If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Romans 8:38 (Parallel theme): For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

Romans 8:34 (References God): Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Hebrews 1:3 (Parallel theme): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;