

Acts 13:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

Analysis

Of this man's seed (ἐκ τοῦ σπέρματος τούτου) directly connects Jesus to David's lineage, fulfilling the Davidic covenant (2 Samuel 7:12-16). Paul's phrase **according to his promise** (κατ' ἐπαγγελίαν) emphasizes divine faithfulness—God keeps His ancient promises. The verb **raised** (ἤγειρεν) carries double meaning: God 'raised up' Jesus historically as David's descendant AND raised Him from death, making Him both Messianic heir and risen Savior.

The title **Savior** (σωτήρα, sotēra) echoes Old Testament deliverers like Moses and the Judges but transcends them—Jesus saves not from temporal enemies but from sin itself. **Unto Israel** establishes covenant priority (Romans 1:16, 'to the Jew first') while foreshadowing universal salvation. Paul's sermon traces Israel's history (vv. 17-22) to demonstrate that Jesus is no interruption but the goal toward which all Scripture points.

Historical Context

Preached in Pisidian Antioch's synagogue circa AD 47 during Paul's first missionary journey. Jewish expectations of a Davidic Messiah were intense under Roman occupation, but most anticipated political liberation. Paul redefines messianic salvation as spiritual deliverance through a crucified and risen King—offensive to Jewish nationalism but central to apostolic gospel.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' Davidic ancestry strengthen your confidence in God's faithfulness to His promises?
2. In what ways do you need Jesus as 'Savior' beyond just forgiveness—as deliverer from sin's power and consequences?

Interlinear Text

τούτου	ὁ	θεὸς	ἀπὸ	τοῦ	σπέρματος	κατ'	ἐπαγγελίαν
this man's	G3588	God	Of	G3588	seed	according	to his promise
G5127		G2316	G575		G4690	G2596	G1860
ἔγειρεν	τῷ	Ἰσραὴλ	σωτῆρα	Ἰησοῦν			
hath	G3588	unto Israel	a Saviour	Jesus			
G1453		G2474	G4990	G2424			

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 1:1 (References Jesus): The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Psalms 132:11 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.

Revelation 22:16 (References Jesus): I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

Acts 13:32 (Covenant): And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

Jude 1:25 (Salvation): To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.

2 Samuel 7:12 (Parallel theme): And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom.

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