

Acts 13:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

Analysis

"I will give you the sure mercies of David" (τὰ ὅσια Δαυὶδ τὰ πιστά, ta hosia Dauid ta pista)—Paul quotes Isaiah 55:3, connecting Christ's resurrection to the Davidic covenant's irrevocable promises. The Greek hosia means "holy things" or "covenant mercies," while pista emphasizes their certainty and faithfulness. These mercies are "sure" because Christ **"raised...from the dead, now no more to return to corruption"** conquered death permanently.

Unlike David, who died and saw corruption (v. 36), Jesus rose never to die again (Romans 6:9). The "sure mercies" depend on an eternal King—if Messiah remained dead, the covenant fails. Paul's logic: God promised David an eternal throne (2 Samuel 7:12-16), Christ's irreversible resurrection proves He is that eternal heir, therefore the covenant blessings are guaranteed through Him. This quote from Isaiah's restoration prophecy shows the New Covenant's foundation in Christ's victory over death.

Historical Context

Paul delivered this sermon in the synagogue at Antioch of Pisidia (c. AD 47-48) during his first missionary journey. He addressed Jews and God-fearing Gentiles who knew Isaiah's prophecies and the Davidic covenant promises. Isaiah 55:3 was understood messianically in Second Temple Judaism—the 'sure mercies'

anticipated Messiah's fulfillment of God's covenant with David. Paul's argument required proving Jesus's resurrection was permanent, not temporary resuscitation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's permanent resurrection (never returning to corruption) secure the 'sureness' of God's covenant promises?
2. What does it mean that the Davidic covenant's blessings are now available through Christ's victory over death?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	δὲ	ἀνέστησεν	αὐτὸν	ἐκ	νεκρῶν	μηκέτι
as concerning that	And	he raised	him	from	the dead	now no more
G3754	G1161	G450	G846	G1537	G3498	G3371
μέλλοντα	ὑποστρέφειν	εἰς	διαφθοράν	οὕτως	εἶρηκεν	
to	return	to	corruption	on this wise	he said	
G3195	G5290	G1519	G1312	G3779	G2046	
ὅτι	Δώσω	ὑμῖν	τὰ	ὅσα	Δαβὶδ	τὰ πιστά
as concerning that	I will give	you	G3588	mercies	of David	G3588 the sure
G3754	G1325	G5213		G3741	G1138	G4103

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 55:3 (References David): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Romans 6:9 (Resurrection): Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org