

Acts 13:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Analysis

Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption—Paul quotes Psalm 16:10 as his second messianic proof text, after citing Psalm 2:7. The Greek *hōsion* (ὅσιον, 'Holy One') translates Hebrew *hasid* (חֲסִיד), meaning 'faithful' or 'covenant-loyal one.' The word *diaphthoran* (διαφθοράν, 'corruption') refers to bodily decay, not mere death.

Paul's argument is exegetical brilliance: David died and decayed (v. 36), therefore he couldn't be speaking of himself. The psalm must prophesy the Messiah who would conquer death through resurrection. The 'Holy One' who sees no corruption can only be Jesus, whose body was raised incorruptible on the third day. This early apostolic preaching shows resurrection as central to gospel proclamation from the beginning.

Historical Context

Paul preached this sermon in the synagogue at Pisidian Antioch (c. AD 47-48) during his first missionary journey. His audience included both Jews and 'God-fearing' Gentiles familiar with the Psalms. The synagogue's liturgical practice of reading the Law and Prophets (v. 15) provided the invitation for Paul's exposition connecting David's psalms to Jesus's resurrection.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's exegetical method of connecting Old Testament prophecy to Christ's resurrection inform how we should read the Psalms?
2. Why is the incorruptibility of Jesus's body (no decay) theologically significant for our own resurrection hope?

Interlinear Text

διό	καὶ	ἐν	ἐτέρῳ	λέγει	Οὐ	δώσεις	τὸν
Wherefore	also	in	another	he saith	not	psalm Thou shalt	G3588
G1352	G2532	G1722	G2087	G3004	G3756	G1325	
ἁγίου	σου	ἰδεῖν	διαφθοράν				
Holy One	thine	to see	corruption				
G3741	G4675	G1492	G1312				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 16:10 (Holy): For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.