

Acts 13:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

Analysis

The contrast between David who 'fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption' and Jesus (implied in verses 37-38) establishes resurrection as the crucial difference. David's death and decay prove he wasn't the ultimate fulfillment of God's promises. Only Jesus, raised without seeing corruption, qualified as the true Davidic king whose kingdom would never end.

Historical Context

Paul's argument follows Psalm 16:10's promise that God's Holy One wouldn't see corruption. Since David's tomb remained in Jerusalem with his decayed body, this prophecy required greater fulfillment in David's descendant, Jesus.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's resurrection establish Him as greater than even the greatest Old Testament saints?

2. What does the contrast between David's decay and Jesus's resurrection teach about your future hope?

Interlinear Text

Δαβὶδ	μὲν	γὰρ	ἰδίᾳ	γενεᾷ	ὑπηρετήσας	τῇ	τοῦ
David	G3303	For	his own	generation	after he had served	G3588	G3588
G1138		G1063	G2398	G1074	G5256		
θεοῦ	βουλῇ	ἐκοιμήθη	καὶ	προσετέθη	πρὸς	τοῖς	
of God	by the will	fell on sleep	and	was laid	unto	G3588	
G2316	G1012	G2837	G2532	G4369	G4314		
πατέρας	αὐτοῦ	καὶ	εἶδεν	διαφθοράν·			
fathers	G846	and	saw	corruption			
G3962		G2532	G1492	G1312			

Additional Cross-References

Acts 2:29 (References David): Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

1 Kings 2:10 (References David): So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David.

Acts 13:22 (References David): And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

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.

1 Chronicles 18:14 (References David): So David reigned over all Israel, and executed judgment and justice among all his people.

