

Acts 2:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Analysis

The promise 'thou wilt not leave my soul in hell' (Greek 'Hades,' the realm of the dead) guarantees Christ's descent into death and subsequent resurrection. The parallel phrase 'neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption' emphasizes bodily resurrection before decay begins. This refutes Gnostic contempt for physical resurrection while establishing Christ's sinlessness - only the 'Holy One' could avoid corruption's power. Believers' resurrection derives from union with this incorruptible One.

Historical Context

Jewish understanding of Sheol/Hades as the abode of departed souls (both righteous and wicked awaiting final judgment) underlies this passage. Christ descended to proclaim victory (1 Peter 3:19) but could not be detained. His body, unlike all others, did not experience the corruption beginning hours after death.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's bodily resurrection secure your physical glorification, not merely spiritual immortality?
2. What does the Holy One's incorruption teach about sin's connection to death and decay?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι	οὐκ	ἐγκαταλείψεις	τὴν	ψυχὴν	μου	εἰς	ᾅδου,
Because	not	leave	G3588	soul	my	in	hell
G3754	G3756	G1459		G5590	G3450	G1519	G86
οὐδὲ	δώσεις	τὸν	ἁγίον	σου	ἰδεῖν	διαφθοράν	
neither	wilt thou suffer	G3588	Holy One	thine	to see	corruption	
G3761	G1325		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.

Acts 2:31 (Parallel theme): He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Revelation 1:18 (Parallel theme): I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 20:13 (Parallel theme): And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

John 11:39 (Parallel theme): Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

Psalms 86:13 (Parallel theme): For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

1 Corinthians 15:52 (Parallel theme): In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:55 (Parallel theme): O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

Revelation 3:7 (Holy): And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

1 John 2:20 (Holy): But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org