

Acts 2:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

Peter's rhetorical move - 'let me freely speak' (Greek 'meta parresías,' with boldness) - signals his shift from exposition to application. Acknowledging David's death and burial ('his sepulchre is with us unto this day') distinguishes patriarch from Messiah. The visible tomb proved David's words couldn't refer to himself, requiring prophetic interpretation. This hermeneutical principle - distinguishing personal experience from prophetic vision - unlocks Christocentric reading of the Psalms.

Historical Context

David's tomb on Mount Zion was Jerusalem's most venerated site after the Temple. Its continued presence was irrefutable evidence David hadn't experienced resurrection, forcing Peter's audience to recognize the prophecy's true subject. Josephus describes the tomb's magnificence and Herod's attempted plundering.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How do you discern when Old Testament passages speak of their immediate context versus messianic prophecy?
2. What does David's tomb's preservation 'unto this day' teach about God's providential preparation for gospel proclamation?

Interlinear Text

Ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί ἐξὸν εἰπεῖν μετὰ παρόρθησίας πρὸς

Men and brethren me let freely G3954 unto

G435

G80

G1832

G2036

freely

G3326

G3954

G4314

ὑμᾶς περὶ τοῦ πατριάρχου Δαβίδ ὅτι καὶ ἐτελεύτησεν

you of the patriarch David that and dead

G5209

G3588

the patriarch

David

that

and

dead

G4012

G3966

G1138

G3754

G2532

G5053

καὶ ἐτάφη καὶ τὸ μνῆμα αὐτοῦ ἔστιν ἐν ἡμῖν ἄχρι

and buried and sepulchre his is with us unto

G2532

G2290

G3588

sepulchre

his

is

with

us

G2254

G891

τῆς ἡμέρας ταύτης

G3588

day

G3778

G2250

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:36 (References David): 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:

Hebrews 7:4 (Parallel theme): Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.

Nehemiah 3:16 (References David): After him repaired Nehemiah the son of Azbuk, the ruler of the half part of Beth-zur, unto the place over against the sepulchres of David, and to the pool that was made, and unto the house of the mighty.

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

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org