

Acts 26:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;

Analysis

But rise, and stand upon thy feet—Christ's command echoes Ezekiel 2:1, where the prophet received his commission. The Greek ἀνάστηθι (anastēthi, stand up) and στῆθι (stēthi, stand) emphasize immediate obedience and readiness for service.

I have appeared unto thee for this purpose (εἰς τοῦτο ὥφθην σοι)—Jesus declares Paul's Damascus Road encounter was purposeful, not accidental. **To make thee a minister and a witness** (ὑπηρέτην καὶ μάρτυρα)—The word ὑπηρέτης (hypēretēs) means 'under-rower,' a subordinate servant, while μάρτυς (martus) became the root of 'martyr.' Paul's apostleship derives directly from Christ's resurrection appearances, validating his authority equal to the Twelve. **Both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee**—Paul's testimony would include both his Damascus experience and future revelations (2 Corinthians 12:1-4), establishing him as eyewitness to the risen Lord.

Historical Context

Paul recounts this before King Agrippa II (circa AD 59-60) as his defense against Jewish accusations. This is the third account of his conversion in Acts (9:1-19,

22:6-16, 26:12-18), each emphasizing different aspects. The setting before Herod Agrippa II, great-grandson of Herod the Great, placed Paul's testimony before Roman-Jewish royalty in Caesarea.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's direct commissioning of Paul challenge our understanding of apostolic authority and calling?
2. What does it mean to be both a 'minister' (servant) and a 'witness' (martyr) in your context today?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	ἀνάστηθι	καὶ	στῆθι	ἐπὶ	τοὺς	πόδας	σου·	εἰς
But	rise	and	stand	upon	G3588	feet	thy	for
G235	G450	G2532	G2476	G1909		G4228	G4675	G1519
τοῦτο	γὰρ	όφθήσομαι		σοι	προχειρίσασθαι	σε		
this purpose	for	I have appeared		unto thee		to make	thee	
G5124	G1063	G3700		G4671		G4400	G4571	
ὑπηρέτην	καὶ	μάρτυρα		ὦν		τε	εἰδές	
a minister	and	a witness	of these things which			and	thou hast seen	
G5257	G2532	G3144	G3739			G5037	G1492	
ὦν		τε	όφθήσομαι	σοι				
of these things which	and	I have appeared	unto thee					
G3739	G5037	G3700	G4671					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 2:1 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, Son of man, stand upon thy feet, and I will speak unto thee.

Daniel 10:11 (Parallel theme): And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

Romans 15:16 (Parallel theme): That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

1 Timothy 1:12 (Parallel theme): And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;

Galatians 1:12 (Parallel theme): For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

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