

Acts 27:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am,
and whom I serve,

Analysis

There stood by me this night the angel of God—Direct angelic visitation confirms Paul's apostolic authority and mission's divine importance. His description **whose I am, and whom I serve** (οὗ εἰμι ἐγὼ ὃ καὶ λατρεύω) reveals covenant relationship: belonging to God precedes serving God. The Greek *latreuō* denotes priestly worship-service, elevating even prisoner-status to sacred ministry. This angelic message parallels Acts' earlier supernatural guidance (10:3, 16:9), showing God directs mission through visions, not just circumstances.

Historical Context

Angelic appearances in Acts authenticate crucial transitions: Cornelius' conversion (10:3), Peter's prison escape (12:7), Philip's desert road (8:26). Paul's vision here ensures his Roman testimony (23:11)—not even shipwreck can thwart God's plan. This occurred during the fourteenth night of the storm.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does your identity as one who 'belongs' to God shape your service and ministry?
2. In what ways has God confirmed His will through supernatural guidance or unmistakable providence?

Interlinear Text

παρέστη	γάρ	μοι	τῇ	νυκτὶ	ταύτῃ	ἄγγελος	τοῦ	θεοῦ
there stood by	For	me	G3588	night	G3778	the angel	G3588	of God
G3936	G1063	G3427		G3571		G32		G2316
ὃν	εἰμι	ὃν	καὶ	λατρεύω				
whom	I am	whom	and	I serve				
G3739	G1510	G3739	G2532	G3000				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 23:11 (Parallel theme): And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.

Hebrews 1:14 (Parallel theme): Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Acts 5:19 (Parallel theme): But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors, and brought them forth, and said,

Romans 1:9 (References God): For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing I make mention of you always in my prayers;

2 Timothy 4:17 (Parallel theme): Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

Isaiah 44:21 (Parallel theme): Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

Acts 18:9 (Parallel theme): Then spake the Lord to Paul in the night by a vision, Be not afraid, but speak, and hold not thy peace:

Acts 8:26 (Parallel theme): And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.

Daniel 6:16 (References God): Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee.

Daniel 6:22 (References God): My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.