

Acts 5:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Analysis

The triumphant proclamation - 'Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins' - presents Christ's dual role. The Greek 'archēgon' (Prince) means originator, founder, pioneer - Christ blazes the trail we follow. 'Saviour' emphasizes deliverance. The phrase 'exalted with his right hand' indicates God's power elevating Christ to supreme authority. The purpose clause 'to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins' shows repentance itself is divine gift, not human achievement. Forgiveness follows repentance chronologically but both derive from grace.

Historical Context

Jewish messianic expectation emphasized ruling Prince. Peter connects political hope to spiritual reality - Christ rules by transforming hearts. That repentance is 'given' contradicts merit theology; even turning to God requires His enabling. The offer 'to Israel' maintained covenant continuity while later extending to Gentiles.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does repentance being God's gift transform your understanding of salvation's source?
2. What does Christ's dual role as Prince and Saviour teach about His comprehensive lordship?

Interlinear Text

τοῦτον	ὁ	θεὸς	ἀρχηγὸν	καὶ	σωτῆρα	ὑψωσεν	τῇ
Him	G3588	hath God	to be a Prince	and	a Saviour	exalted	G3588
G5126		G2316	G747	G2532	G4990	G5312	
δεξιᾷ	αὐτοῦ	δοῦναι	μετάνοιαν	τῷ	Ἰσραὴλ	καὶ	
right hand	G846	for to give	repentance	G3588	to Israel	and	
G1188		G1325	G3341		G2474	G2532	
ἄφεσιν	ἁμαρτιῶν						
forgiveness	of sins						
G859	G266						

Additional Cross-References

Luke 24:47 (Sin): And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:33 (References God): Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

Luke 2:11 (Salvation): For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Hebrews 2:10 (Salvation): For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

Revelation 1:5 (Sin): And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Isaiah 9:6 (References God): For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Acts 11:18 (Repentance): When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

1 John 4:14 (Salvation): And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

Hebrews 12:2 (Sin): Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Acts 3:15 (References God): And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.