

Acts 7:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then said the Lord to him, Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

Analysis

God commands Moses to remove his sandals because of the holy ground, sanctified by divine presence. This act of removing footwear symbolized reverence, humility, and acknowledgment of unworthiness before God's holiness. The ground itself was not inherently holy but made holy by God's presence. Reformed theology emphasizes that holiness derives from God alone - objects, places, and people are holy only as God consecrates them. This command taught Moses that approaching God requires recognition of His transcendent holiness.

Historical Context

Removing shoes when approaching sacred space was common in ancient Near Eastern cultures. This practice continues in some Eastern religious traditions. For Israel, it established a pattern of reverent approach to God's presence, later formalized in tabernacle and temple worship.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does the command to remove shoes teach us about approaching God in worship?
2. What makes something or someone 'holy' in biblical terms?
3. In what ways should recognition of God's holiness affect our daily conduct?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	δὲ	αὐτῷ	ό	κύριος	Λῦσον	τὸ	ὑπόδημα	τῷν
said	Then	to him	G3588	the Lord	Put off	G3588	thy shoes	G3588
G2036	G1161	G846		G2962	G3089		G5266	
ποδῶν	σου	ό	γὰρ	τόπος	ἐν	ῷ	ἔστηκας	γῆ
feet	from thy	G3588	for	the place	where	G3739	thou standest	ground
G4228	G4675		G1063	G5117	G1722		G2476	G1093
ἀγία	ἐστίν							
holy	is							
G40	G2076							

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 3:5 (Holy): And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.

Joshua 5:15 (Holy): And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

2 Peter 1:18 (Holy): And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

Ecclesiastes 5:1 (Parallel theme): Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.

