

# Acts 7:49

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

## Analysis

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Stephen quotes Isaiah 66:1-2 to demonstrate God's transcendence from Scripture itself. 'Heaven is my throne, earth is my footstool' emphasizes the infinite distance between Creator and creation. The rhetorical question 'what house will ye build me?' challenges human presumption that we can provide for God or contain Him in structures. Reformed theology sees this as confronting works-righteousness: God needs nothing from us, yet graciously accepts worship offered in spirit and truth. True worship recognizes God's self-sufficiency and our complete dependence.

## Historical Context

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Isaiah prophesied these words during the eighth century BC, long before the second temple was built. The prophecy contextually addressed those who trusted in external rituals while hearts remained far from God - precisely Stephen's accusation against the Sanhedrin.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

## Study Questions

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1. How does recognizing God's self-sufficiency affect our worship and service?
2. What 'houses' or structures do we try to build to contain or impress God?
3. Why is spiritual worship superior to physical structures and rituals?

## Interlinear Text

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Ο οὐρανός μοι θρόνος ἡ δὲ γῆ ὑποπόδιον τῶν  
G3588 Heaven is my throne G3588 and earth G5286 G3588  
G3772 G3427 G2362 G1161 G1093

ποδῶν μου ποῖον οἶκον οἰκοδομήσετε μοι λέγει κύριος  
footstool is my what house will ye build is my saith the Lord  
G4228 G3450 G4169 G3624 G3618 G3427 G3004 G2962

ἢ τίς τόπος τῆς καταπαύσεώς μου  
or what is the place G3588 rest G2663 is my  
G2228 G5101 G5117 G3450

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 66:1** (References Lord): Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?

**Psalms 11:4** (References Lord): The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

**Revelation 3:21** (Parallel theme): To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

**Jeremiah 23:24** (References Lord): Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

**John 4:21** (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

**1 Kings 22:19** (References Lord): And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

**Matthew 24:2** (Parallel theme): And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.

**Matthew 23:22** (Parallel theme): And he that shall swear by heaven, sweareth by the throne of God, and by him that sitteth thereon.