

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

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

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

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

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

Ὁ	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	is my			
G2228	G5101	G5117		G2663	G3450			

Additional Cross-References

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.

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