

Acts 7:55

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

Analysis

Stephen's vision of Jesus 'standing on the right hand of God' uniquely shows Christ standing rather than seated (as elsewhere in Scripture), suggesting active reception of his martyred witness. Being 'full of the Holy Ghost' enabled this spiritual sight, showing Spirit-empowered perception beyond physical reality. This vision vindicated Stephen's testimony about Jesus' exaltation.

Historical Context

Moments before his stoning (AD 33-34), Stephen received this vision encouraging him unto death. His claim to see 'the Son of man' (v. 56) echoed Jesus' words at his trial (Matthew 26:64), enraging the Sanhedrin who viewed it as blasphemy.

Related Passages

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Christ's standing position suggest about His response to martyred saints?

2. How does Spirit-fullness enable believers to endure extreme persecution?

Interlinear Text

ὑπάρχων	δὲ	πλήρης	πνεύματος	ἀγίου	ἀτενίσας			
he being	But	full	Ghost	of the Holy	looked up stedfastly			
G5225	G1161	G4134	G4151	G40	G816			
εἰς	τὸν	οὐρανὸν	εἶδεν	δόξαν	θεοῦ	καὶ	Ἰησοῦν	έστωτα
into	G3588	heaven	and saw	the glory	of God	and	Jesus	standing
G1519		G3772	G1492	G1391	G2316	G2532	G2424	G2476
ἐκ	δεξιῶν	τοῦ	θεοῦ					
on	the right hand	G3588	of God					
G1537		G1188	G2316					

Additional Cross-References

Mark 16:19 (References God): So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Hebrews 1:3 (Glory): Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Acts 6:10 (Spirit): And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

Acts 6:5 (Holy): And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Glory): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 8:1 (Parallel theme): Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

Acts 2:4 (Holy): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 6:8 (Parallel theme): And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

John 12:41 (Glory): These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.