

Acts 7:56

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Analysis

Stephen's vision - 'I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God' - echoed Jesus' claim before this same body (Mark 14:62). The 'Son of man' title connected to Daniel 7:13-14's heavenly figure. Jesus standing (not seated) suggests He rose to receive His martyred witness.

Historical Context

Jesus' claim to sit at God's right hand led to His condemnation for blasphemy. Stephen's parallel vision claiming to see Jesus there provoked identical rage.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus 'standing' suggest about His response to Stephen's martyrdom?
2. How does Stephen's vision confirm Jesus' earlier claims before this same council?

Interlinear Text

καὶ εἶπεν Ἰδού, θεωρῶ τοὺς οὐρανοὺς ἀνεῳγμένους καὶ
And said Behold I see the heavens opened And
G2532 G2036 G2400 G2334 G3588 G3772 G455 G2532
τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐκ δεξιῶν ἔστωτα τοῦ
the Son of man on the right hand standing G3588
G3588 G5207 G444 G1537 G1188 G2476 G3588
θεοῦ
of God
G2316

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 11:19 (References God): And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 19:11 (Parallel theme): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Acts 10:11 (Parallel theme): And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

Matthew 3:16 (References God): And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Revelation 4:1 (Parallel theme): After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Acts 10:16 (Parallel theme): This was done thrice: and the vessel was received up again into heaven.

