

Isaiah 45:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Analysis

God swears by Himself (since none greater exists): 'I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return.' Every knee shall bow, every tongue swear allegiance to Him. Paul quotes this in Philippians 2:10-11 applying it to Christ, demonstrating Christ's full deity.

Historical Context

The oath formula 'by myself' echoes God's oath to Abraham (Genesis 22:16). This adds solemn certainty to the promise of universal acknowledgment.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does Paul's application of this verse to Christ affirm Christ's deity?
2. What does universal submission to God mean for those who refuse Him now?

Interlinear Text

דְּבָרִים	אָזַדְתִּי	בְּבִרְכָּה	מִפְּנֵי	אֲצַחַת	תִּשְׁבַּע	בְּבִרְכָּה	בְּ
H0 I have sworn	H3318 is gone out	H6310 of my mouth	H6666 in righteousness	H1697 by myself the word			
H7650	H3808 and shall not return	H3588	H0 shall bow	H3605	H3956	H1290	
	H7725		H3766				
לְשׁוֹן:	כָּל	תִּשְׁבַּע	לִ	כָּל	תִּכְבַּע	לְ	כָּל
I have sworn	H3605	every tongue					
H7650		H3956					

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 2:10 (Parallel theme): That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

Isaiah 55:11 (Word): So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 45:19 (Righteousness): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Isaiah 65:16 (Parallel theme): That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes.

Psalms 63:11 (Parallel theme): But the king shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall glory: but the mouth of them that speak lies shall be stopped.

Deuteronomy 6:13 (Parallel theme): Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

Psalms 132:2 (Parallel theme): How he sware unto the LORD, and vowed unto the mighty God of Jacob;

Nehemiah 10:29 (Word): They clave to their brethren, their nobles, and entered into a curse, and into an oath, to walk in God's law, which was given by Moses the servant of God, and to observe and do all the commandments of the LORD our Lord, and his judgments and his statutes;

Romans 11:4 (Parallel theme): But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

Genesis 31:53 (Parallel theme): The God of Abraham, and the God of Nahor, the God of their father, judge betwixt us. And Jacob sware by the fear of his father Isaac.

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