

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

Psalms 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

בִּי	וְנִשְׁבַּעַי	יָצָא	מִפִּי	צְדִיקָה	בְּרִי
H0	I have sworn	is gone out	of my mouth	in righteousness	by myself the word
	H7650	H3318	H6310	H6666	H1697
וְלֹא	יָשׁוּב	כִּי	לִי	תִּכְבֹּעַ	כָּל
H3808	and shall not return	H3588	H0	shall bow	H3605
	H7725			H3766	H1290
וְנִשְׁבַּעַי	כָּל	לְשׁוֹן:			
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 swore 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 swore by the fear of his father Isaac.