

Isaiah 66:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

God's rhetorical questions 'where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest?' challenge all human presumption to contain or serve God. The cosmic vision 'The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool' establishes God's transcendent greatness - no temple (even Solomon's) adequately houses Him. Yet verse 2 shows He dwells with contrite hearts - God is simultaneously transcendent and immanent.

Historical Context

Stephen quoted this in Acts 7:49-50 when challenging Jewish temple-fixation. Post-exilic focus on rebuilding temple needed this corrective - God values humble hearts over elaborate buildings. Jesus declared His body the true temple (John 2:19-21), making material structures obsolete.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How do you balance reverence for God's transcendent greatness with confidence in His immanent nearness?
2. What 'houses' (religious structures, traditions, programs) do you wrongly think contain or impress God?

Interlinear Text

בָּהּ	אָמַר	יְהִי	הַשְׁמָם	יִם	כִּסְאוֹ	יְהִי	בָּהּ	וּבָא	רָצ	בָּהּ
H3541	Thus saith	the LORD	The heaven	is my throne	and the earth			H1916		
H559		H3068	H8064	H3678	H776					
is my footstool	H335	H2088	where is the house	H834	that ye build	H0	H335			
H7272			H1004		H1129					
בְּנֵי	מִקְדָּשׁ	וּמִ	מִנְחָתִים							
H2088	unto me	and where is the place	of my rest	H4496						
	H4725									

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:24 (References Lord): God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;

1 Kings 8:27 (Parallel theme): But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

Psalms 132:7 (Parallel theme): We will go into his tabernacles: we will worship at his footstool.

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.

1 Chronicles 28:2 (References Lord): Then David the king stood up upon his feet, and said, Hear me, my brethren, and my people: As for me, I had in mine heart to build an house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and for the footstool of our God, and had made ready for the building:

2 Chronicles 6:18 (Parallel theme): But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built!

Psalms 99:9 (References Lord): Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

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.

Malachi 1:11 (References Lord): For from the rising of the sun even unto the going down of the same my name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense shall be offered unto my name, and a pure offering: for my name shall be great among the heathen, saith the LORD of hosts.