

John 10:35

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

Analysis

If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken (εἰ ἐκείνους εἶπεν θεοὺς πρὸς οὓς ὁ λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ οὐ δύναται λυθῆναι ἡ γραφή, ei ekeinous eipen theous pros hous ho logos tou theou egeneto, kai ou dynatai lythenai he graphe)—Jesus's parenthetical statement about Scripture's inviolability is crucial. The phrase οὐ δύναται λυθῆναι ἡ γραφή (ou dynatai lythenai he graphe, 'the Scripture cannot be broken') affirms biblical inerrancy and authority. If even Psalm 82's metaphorical use of 'gods' is authoritative and unbreakable, how much more the rest of Scripture?

Jesus grounds His entire defense on Scripture's absolute trustworthiness—every word matters and stands forever. This contradicts modern approaches that pick and choose biblical authority. Jesus's complete confidence in Scripture's integrity provides the model for Christian faith: God's written Word is unbreakable, therefore what it says about God's incarnate Word is absolutely true.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish debates assumed Scripture's complete authority—disputes centered on interpretation, not whether the text was authoritative. Jesus operates within this framework, demonstrating that His deity claims align with Scripture properly understood. This verse became foundational for Christian doctrine of biblical inerrancy.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's statement that 'scripture cannot be broken' shape Christian understanding of biblical authority?
2. If Jesus trusted Scripture's every word as unbreakable, how should believers approach modern challenges to biblical reliability?
3. What's the relationship between trusting Scripture's authority about Christ and trusting Christ's authority about Scripture?

Interlinear Text

εἰ	ἐκείνους	εἶπεν	θεοῦ	πρὸς	οὓς	ό	λόγος	τοῦ
If	them	he called	gods	unto	whom	G3588	the word	G3588
G1487	G1565	G2036	G2316	G4314	G3739		G3056	
θεοῦ	ἐγένετο	καὶ	οὐ	δύναται	λυθῆναι	ή	γραφή	
gods	came	and	cannot	G1410	be broken	G3588	the scripture	
G2316	G1096	G2532	G3756		G3089		G1124	

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 24:35 (Word): Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

Romans 13:1 (References God): Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Luke 16:17 (Word): And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Acts 1:16 (Word): Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Genesis 15:1 (Word): After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

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