

John 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Analysis

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us (δεῖξον ἡμῖν τὸν πατέρα, καὶ ἀρκεῖ ἡμῖν)—Philip's request reveals a profound misunderstanding. Despite three years with Jesus, he still sought a theophanic vision like Moses at Sinai (Exodus 33:18). The verb deixon (show, reveal) implies wanting a spectacular manifestation, while arkei (it is enough) suggests this would resolve all their doubts.

Jesus's response in verse 9 is one of the most poignant rebukes in Scripture: "Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me?" Philip's failure to recognize the full deity of Christ incarnate—that seeing Jesus is seeing the Father—demonstrates how even close disciples struggled with the incarnation's revolutionary claim: God has made himself visible in human flesh (Colossians 1:15, Hebrews 1:3).

Historical Context

This exchange occurs in the Upper Room on the night before Jesus's crucifixion (AD 30). Philip, one of the Twelve from Bethsaida (John 1:43-44), had witnessed Jesus's miracles for three years. First-century Jewish expectation anticipated a future revelation of God's glory (Isaiah 40:5), but Philip failed to grasp that this revelation stood before him in Jesus.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'signs' or 'proofs' do you sometimes demand from God when Jesus himself is the ultimate revelation of the Father?
2. How does Jesus as the 'image of the invisible God' (Colossians 1:15) challenge your understanding of who God is and what he values?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	αὐτῷ	Φίλιππος	Κύριε	δεῖξον	ἡμῖν	τὸν	πατέρα
saith	unto him	Philip	Lord	shew	us	G3588	the Father
G3004	G846	G5376	G2962	G1166	G2254		G3962

καὶ	ἀρκεῖ	ἡμῖν
and	it sufficeth	us
G2532	G714	G2254

Additional Cross-References

John 16:25 (Parallel theme): These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Psalms 17:15 (Parallel theme): As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

Job 33:26 (Parallel theme): He shall pray unto God, and he will be favourable unto him: and he shall see his face with joy: for he will render unto man his righteousness.

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org