

John 16:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

Analysis

I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world (ἐξῆλθον παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ ἐλήλυθα εἰς τὸν κόσμον)—This is one of the clearest statements of Christ's pre-existence and incarnation in Scripture. The aorist tense "came forth" (ἐξῆλθον/exēlthon) points to a definite historical moment—the eternal Son's procession from the Father. The perfect tense "am come" (ἐλήλυθα/elēlytha) indicates He has come and remains present—the incarnation is an accomplished, continuing reality.

Again, I leave the world, and go to the Father (πάλιν ἀφίημι τὸν κόσμον καὶ πορεύομαι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα)—Jesus here summarizes the entire arc of redemptive history: the Son's descent from heaven, His entrance into creation, and His return to glory through death, resurrection, and ascension. The present tense verbs ("leave," "go") spoken hours before the cross show Jesus's sovereign control over His mission—He isn't a victim but the willing executor of the Father's plan.

Historical Context

This verse encapsulates Johannine Christology: Christ's pre-existence with the Father (John 1:1-2), His incarnation (John 1:14), and His return to glory (John 17:5). For John's late first-century audience facing early Gnostic heresies that denied either Christ's true humanity or His true deity, this verse affirms both—He genuinely entered the world (contra docetism) yet came from the Father and

returns to Him (affirming full divinity). The Nicene and Chalcedonian creeds would later formalize these truths.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does the full arc of Christ's mission—from eternity, through incarnation, to glorification—shape your understanding of redemption?
2. What does Jesus's sovereign control over His departure ("I leave") teach about His willing sacrifice at Calvary?
3. How does Christ's return to the Father affect our hope and future (John 14:2-3)?

Interlinear Text

ἐξῆλθον παρὰ τοῦ πατέρα καὶ ἐλήλυθα εἰς τὸν
I came forth from the Father and am come into G3588
G1831 G3844 G3588 G3962 G2532 G2064 G1519

κόσμον πάλιν ἀφίημι τὸν κόσμον καὶ πορεύομαι πρὸς
the world again I leave G3588 the world and go to
G2889 G3825 G863 G2889 G2532 G4198 G4314

τὸν πατέρα
the Father
G3588 G3962

Additional Cross-References

John 13:1 (Parallel theme): Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.

John 13:3 (Parallel theme): Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

John 8:14 (Parallel theme): Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

John 16:5 (Parallel theme): But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou?

John 17:5 (Parallel theme): And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John 16:16 (Parallel theme): A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.

John 14:28 (Parallel theme): Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

Luke 24:51 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.
