

John 3:13

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Analysis

Jesus reveals His unique qualification: 'And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.' Only one has traveled both directions—descended from heaven to earth and (proleptically) ascended back. The Son of Man is uniquely positioned to reveal heavenly things because He originates there. The phrase 'which is in heaven' (present tense) emphasizes His ongoing divine nature even while on earth—He is simultaneously present with the Father.

Historical Context

The 'Son of Man' title connects to Daniel 7:13-14, where a divine figure receives universal dominion. Jesus claims both descent (incarnation) and ascent (ascension to come). This uniqueness grounds His authority to teach heavenly mysteries. No other prophet or teacher shares this qualification.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' descent from heaven distinguish His teaching from all other religious authorities?
2. What does the title 'Son of Man' convey about Jesus' identity and mission?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	οὐδεὶς	ἀναβέβηκεν	εἰς	τῷ	οὐρανῷ	εἰ	μὴ	τῷ
And	no man	hath ascended up	to	which	heaven	G1487	G3361	which
G2532	G3762	G305	G1519	G3588	G3772			G3588
ἐκ	τῷ	οὐρανῷ	καταβάς	τῷ	υἱὸς	τῷ		
from	which	heaven	he that came down	which	even the Son	which		
G1537	G3588	G3772	G2597	G3588	G5207	G3588		
ἀνθρώπου	τῷ	Ὥν	ἐν	τῷ	οὐρανῷ			
of man	which	is	in	which	heaven			
G444	G3588	G5607	G1722	G3588	G3772			

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 30:4 (Parallel theme): Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

John 6:38 (Parallel theme): For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Acts 2:34 (Parallel theme): For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

John 1:18 (Parallel theme): No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

1 Corinthians 15:47 (Parallel theme): The first man is of the earth, earthly: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

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;

Romans 10:6 (Parallel theme): But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

John 6:62 (Parallel theme): What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before?

John 3:31 (Parallel theme): He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

John 6:42 (Parallel theme): And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?