

John 6:38

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.

Analysis

'For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.' Jesus' heavenly origin grounds His authority. His mission is pure submission—not self-will but the Father's will. This models the obedience He requires of followers. His 'coming down' asserts pre-existence; His obedience demonstrates perfect Sonship. The incarnation was not Jesus' personal project but the Father's sending.

Historical Context

This claim to heavenly origin would become increasingly offensive (verse 41). It asserts what the prologue declared (1:1-14)—the Word was with God, was God, and became flesh. Jesus' self-description as 'sent' appears frequently in John, emphasizing His mission consciousness.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus' submission to the Father's will teach about proper obedience?
2. How does the claim to have 'come down from heaven' establish Jesus' authority?

Interlinear Text

ὅτι καταβέβηκα ἐκ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ οὐχ ἵνα ποιῶ τὸ⁵
For I came down from heaven not to do of him that sent
G3754 G2597 G1537 G3588 G3772 G3756 G2443 G4160 G3588

θέλημα τὸ ἐμὸν ἀλλὰ τὸ θέλημα τοῦ πέμψαντός⁶
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G2307 G3588 G1699 G235 G2307 G3588 G3992

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Additional Cross-References

John 5:30 (Parallel theme): I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 4:34 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

Isaiah 53:10 (Parallel theme): Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

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 3:13 (Parallel theme): And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

John 6:33 (Parallel theme): For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

Hebrews 5:8 (Parallel theme): Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

Romans 15:3 (Parallel theme): For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

Matthew 20:28 (Parallel theme): Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.