

John 7:27

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is.

Analysis

Howbeit we know this man whence he is: but when Christ cometh, no man knoweth whence he is. The crowd's objection: they know Jesus's origins (Nazareth, Mary and Joseph), but expected Messiah's origins to be mysterious. This reflects rabbinic speculation that Messiah would appear suddenly without traceable origin (based on Malachi 3:1, Daniel 7:13). They misunderstand—they know Jesus's earthly origins but not His heavenly origin. Jesus is from Nazareth geographically but from the Father eternally.

Historical Context

Some rabbinic traditions held that Messiah would remain hidden until His revelation (2 Esdras 7:28, 13:51-52). Others expected Him from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, John 7:42). The crowd knew Jesus as the Galilean carpenter's son, unaware of His Bethlehem birth. Their partial knowledge led to wrong conclusions. This parallels modern objections—people judge Christ based on incomplete information.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does partial knowledge about Jesus lead to wrong conclusions?
2. What is the relationship between Jesus's earthly and heavenly origins?
3. How do we avoid making similar mistakes by knowing Jesus only superficially?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλὰ	τοῦτον	οἴδαμεν	πόθεν	ἐστίν	ό	δὲ	Χριστὸς
Howbeit	this man	we know	whence	he is	G3588	but	Christ
G235	G5126	G1492	G4159	G2076		G1161	G5547

ὅταν	ἔρχηται	οὐδεὶς	γινώσκει	πόθεν	ἐστίν
when	cometh	no man	knoweth	whence	he is
G3752	G2064	G3762	G1097	G4159	G2076

Additional Cross-References

Micah 5:2 (Parallel theme): But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

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?

John 9:29 (Parallel theme): We know that God spake unto Moses: as for this fellow, we know not from whence he is.