

Luke 20:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

Analysis

And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand (Καὶ αὐτὸς Δαυὶδ λέγει ἐν βίβλῳ ψαλμῶν, Εἶπεν κύριος τῷ κυρίῳ μου, Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου, Kai autos David legei en biblō psalmōn, Eipen kyrios tō kyriō mou, Kathou ek dexiōn mou)—Jesus cites Psalm 110:1, the Old Testament's most quoted verse in the New Testament. The Hebrew distinguishes YHWH (LORD, Yahweh) from Adonai (my Lord): 'YHWH said to my Adon.' David, through the Spirit, reports God the Father addressing someone David calls 'my Lord.'

Sit thou on my right hand (Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου)—the right hand is the position of highest honor and authority. Kathou (sit, be seated) in the present imperative suggests both rest from completed work and reigning authority. This prophesies Messiah's exaltation after accomplishing redemption—precisely what happened at Jesus's ascension (Acts 2:33-35, Hebrews 1:3, 13). Peter quoted this Psalm at Pentecost to prove Jesus's lordship.

Historical Context

Psalm 110 was recognized as Messianic in Second Temple Judaism (evidenced in Dead Sea Scrolls). However, the paradox of David calling his own son 'Lord' wasn't fully resolved until Christian revelation of Jesus's deity. The New Testament uses Psalm 110:1 to affirm Christ's current heavenly session and future complete triumph (1 Corinthians 15:25, Hebrews 10:12-13).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Psalm 110:1 demonstrate the Trinity—Father addressing Son, both sharing divine identity?
2. What does Christ's 'sitting' at God's right hand teach about His completed atoning work and ongoing reign?
3. How should knowing Jesus currently reigns in heavenly authority affect your daily trust and obedience?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	αὐτὸς	Δαβὶδ	λέγει	ἐν	βίβλῳ	ψαλμῶν	Εἶπεν	ὁ
And	himself	David	saith	in	the book	of Psalms	said	G3588
G2532	G846	G1138	G3004	G1722	G976	G5568	G2036	
κυρίῳ	τῷ	κυρίῳ	μου	Κάθου	ἐκ	δεξιῶν	μου	
Lord	G3588	Lord	my	Sit thou	on	right hand	my	
G2962		G2962	G3450	G2521	G1537	G1188	G3450	

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 110:1 (References Lord): The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Hebrews 1:13 (Parallel theme): But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

1 Corinthians 15:25 (Parallel theme): For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

Luke 24:44 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

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