

Luke 20:44

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his son?

Analysis

David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his son? (Δαυὶδ οὖν κύριον αὐτὸν καλεῖ, καὶ πῶς αὐτοῦ υἱός ἐστιν; David oun kyrion auton kalei, kai pōs autou huios estin?)—Oun (therefore) draws the logical conclusion. Kalei (calls, names) in present tense emphasizes ongoing testimony: David continually addresses Messiah as kyrion (Lord). Pōs (how?) presents the paradox: fathers don't call sons 'Lord'—sons honor fathers (Exodus 20:12), not vice versa.

The only solution: Messiah transcends normal human categories. He is David's son by human descent (Romans 1:3), David's Lord by divine nature (Romans 1:4). The incarnation resolves the riddle: eternal Son of God assumes human nature through Davidic line. This question exposed inadequate Jewish Christology and anticipated early church's confession: 'Jesus Christ... was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power' (Romans 1:3-4). The scribes couldn't answer because their framework excluded divine Messiah.

Historical Context

No record exists of the scribes answering Jesus's question. Mark 12:37 notes 'the common people heard him gladly,' suggesting His argument resonated with ordinary listeners even if experts remained silent. This question became foundational for Christian theology: Christ's deity wasn't invented by later councils but was implicit in Jesus's own teaching and Old Testament prophecy.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does the mystery of Christ being both David's son and David's Lord require faith to accept what logic alone can't fully explain?
2. What other biblical paradoxes about Jesus (fully God/fully human, suffering servant/conquering king) require similar both/and rather than either/or thinking?
3. How should Christ's identity as both human descendant and divine Lord shape your worship and obedience?

Interlinear Text

Δαβὶδ	οὖν	κύριον	αὐτοῦ	καλεῖ	καὶ	πῶς	υἱός	αὐτοῦ
David	therefore	Lord	him	calleth	then	how	son	him
G1138	G3767	G2962	G846	G2564	G2532	G4459	G5207	G846

ἐστίν
is he
G2076

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:16 (References David): I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.