

Luke 4:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.

Analysis

If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. Satan's second temptation distills to its essence: *proskyneō moi* (προσκυνέω μοι, worship me). The verb *proskyneō* (προσκυνέω) means to bow down in reverence, pay homage, or worship—the exclusive prerogative of deity alone. Satan demands what belongs only to God, revealing his fundamental rebellion: the desire to usurp divine worship (Isaiah 14:13-14). The condition 'if thou therefore wilt' (εάν οὖν σὺ προσκυνήσῃς) makes the offer conditional on a single act of worship.

This temptation presents a Satanic shortcut to messianic dominion without the cross. **All shall be thine** (estai sou pasa, ἔσται σοῦ πάντα) promises immediate universal authority—what Psalm 2:8 and Daniel 7:13-14 already guarantee Christ will receive through suffering and resurrection. The essence of every false religion appears here: worshiping created things rather than the Creator (Romans 1:25). Satan offers Jesus His rightful inheritance through compromise, bypassing the Father's redemptive plan requiring substitutionary atonement.

Historical Context

First-century Jewish messianic expectations centered on political liberation from Rome and establishment of a Davidic kingdom. The Zealot movement advocated armed rebellion against Roman occupation. Satan's offer of immediate kingdoms without the 'scandal' of a crucified Messiah (1 Corinthians 1:23) would have seemed pragmatically attractive from a worldly perspective. Yet Jesus understood

His mission required the cross—only through His death could redemption be accomplished and true dominion over sin, death, and Satan be secured. This temptation would recur when crowds sought to make Jesus king by force (John 6:15) and when Peter rebuked Jesus for predicting His death (Matthew 16:22-23).

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Satan's demand for worship reveal the ultimate goal behind all his temptations and schemes?
2. In what ways are Christians tempted to pursue godly ends (influence, prosperity, success) through ungodly means (compromise, shortcuts, worldly methods)?
3. Why was it necessary for Christ to obtain His kingdom through the cross rather than accepting Satan's offer of immediate dominion?

Interlinear Text

σὺ	οὖν	ἐὰν	προσκυνήσης	ἐνὼπιον	μοῦ,	ἔσται	σοῦ
thou	therefore	If	wilt worship	me	G3450	shall be	thine
G4771	G3767	G1437	G4352	G1799		G2071	G4675

πάντα

all

G3956

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 4:10 (Worship): The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 5:8 (Parallel theme): And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.

Revelation 22:8 (Worship): And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

Isaiah 46:6 (Worship): They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship.

Isaiah 45:14 (Parallel theme): Thus saith the LORD, The labour of Egypt, and merchandise of Ethiopia and of the Sabeans, men of stature, shall come over unto thee, and they shall be thine: they shall come after thee; in chains they shall come over, and they shall fall down unto thee, they shall make supplication unto thee, saying, Surely God is in thee; and there is none else, there is no God.

Psalms 72:11 (Parallel theme): Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.

Matthew 2:11 (Worship): And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

Luke 8:28 (Parallel theme): When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

Luke 17:16 (Parallel theme): And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.