

Mark 12:36

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Analysis

David himself said by the Holy Ghost (αὐτὸς Δαυὶδ εἶπεν ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀγίῳ)—Jesus grounds His argument in Psalm 110:1's divine inspiration. David spoke 'in' (ἐν, en = 'in,' 'by means of') the Holy Spirit, establishing Scripture's authority as God-breathed revelation. Peter later quoted this verse at Pentecost (Acts 2:34-35); the author of Hebrews used it extensively to demonstrate Christ's superiority to angels and priesthood (Hebrews 1:13; 10:12-13). It's the most frequently cited Old Testament verse in the New Testament.

The LORD said to my Lord presents two distinct Hebrew titles: YHWH (יהָה, the covenant name of God) said to Adonai (אֲדֹנָי, 'my Lord,' indicating a superior). David, Israel's greatest king, acknowledges someone he calls 'my Lord'—someone greater than himself. **Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool** describes enthronement and conquest. The right hand symbolizes power and honor (Psalm 110:5; 118:15-16); making enemies a footstool depicts complete victory (Joshua 10:24; 1 Kings 5:3). This messianic figure shares God's throne, exercising divine authority—an astonishing claim in Jewish monotheism. Jesus' resurrection and ascension fulfilled this prophecy (Acts 2:33; Ephesians 1:20; Hebrews 1:3).

Historical Context

Psalm 110, attributed to David (c. 1000 BC), was recognized as messianic by Jewish interpreters. The psalm combines royal imagery (enthronement, conquest) with priestly imagery (Melchizedek priesthood, v. 4). Jewish exegesis struggled with 'my Lord'—if Messiah is David's descendant, why does David call him Lord? Jesus resolves the paradox: Messiah is both David's son (human lineage) and David's Lord (divine nature). Early Christians saw Psalm 110 fulfilled in Jesus' resurrection and ascension. Stephen saw the risen Christ at God's right hand (Acts 7:55-56). Paul taught that Christ now reigns, awaiting final subjugation of all enemies (1 Corinthians 15:25). The 'footstool' imagery connects to God's promise that Christ will defeat Satan, sin, and death—the ultimate enemies.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Study Questions

1. How does David's acknowledgment of Messiah as 'my Lord' challenge comfortable assumptions about Jesus being merely a good teacher or moral example?
2. What does Christ's present session at God's right hand mean for believers facing hostility and opposition in this age?
3. How should the certainty that Christ's enemies will become His footstool shape Christian hope and endurance?

Interlinear Text

αὐτὸς γὰρ Δαβὶδ Εἶπεν ἐν τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀγίῳ
himself For David said by Ghost G3588 G3588 the Holy G40
G846 G1063 G1138 G2036 G1722 G4151 G40

Εἶπεν ὁ κυρίως τῷ κυρίῳ μου Κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου
said G3588 Lord G3588 Lord my Sit thou on right hand my
G2036 G2962 G2962 G3450 G2521 G1537 G1188 G3450

ἔως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἔχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν
till G302 I make G3588 enemies thine footstool G3588 G4228
G2193 G5087 G2190 G4675 G5286

σου
thine
G4675

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.

Acts 1:16 (Holy): Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Nehemiah 9:30 (Spirit): Yet many years didst thou forbear them, and testifiedst against them by thy spirit in thy prophets: yet would they not give ear: therefore gavest thou them into the hand of the people of the lands.

2 Samuel 23:2 (Spirit): The Spirit of the LORD spake by me, and his word was in my tongue.

