

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 ἁγίῳ)—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 (יהוה, 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	ἁγίῳ	
himself	For	David	said	by	G3588	Ghost	G3588	the Holy	
G846	G1063	G1138	G2036	G1722		G4151		G40	
Εἶπεν	ὁ	κυρίῳ	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
ἕως	ἂν	θῶ	τοὺς	ἐχθρούς	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.

