

Matthew 28:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Analysis

The risen Jesus declares total authority: 'All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth' (Greek: ἔδόθη μοι πᾶσα ἡξουσία ἐν οὐρανῷ καὶ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, 'all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me'). The word ἡξουσία means authority, right to rule. The passive 'is given' (ἔδόθη) indicates the Father granting authority to the Son. 'All' (πᾶσα) is comprehensive - no realm exceeds Jesus' rule. 'In heaven and earth' encompasses spiritual and physical realms. This authority grounds the Great Commission - Jesus sends disciples with His own authority. Daniel 7:13-14's Son of Man receives everlasting dominion, fulfilled in resurrection.

Historical Context

This declaration comes post-resurrection on a Galilean mountain. Jesus' earthly ministry displayed authority over nature, demons, disease, and death. Resurrection vindicated His claims (Romans 1:4). Early church proclaimed Jesus as cosmic Lord (Philippians 2:9-11, Colossians 1:15-20). Roman authorities demanded Caesar worship, but Christians confessed 'Jesus is Lord,' implying His authority supersedes all earthly powers. This claim grounded missionary expansion and sustained martyrs who obeyed heavenly rather than earthly authority.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' total authority affect our confidence in obeying the Great Commission?
2. What areas of life do we struggle to place under Jesus' authority?
3. How should Jesus' comprehensive authority shape our response to competing authorities?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	προσελθὼν	ό	Ἰησοῦς	ἐλάλησεν	αὐτοῖς	λέγων,		
And	came		Jesus	and spake	unto them	saying		
G2532	G4334	G3588	G2424	G2980	G846	G3004		
Ἐδόθη	μοι	πᾶσα	ἐξουσία	ἐν	οὐρανῷ	καὶ	ἐπὶ	γῆς
is given	unto me	All	power	in	heaven	And	in	earth
G1325	G3427	G3956	G1849	G1722	G3772	G2532	G1909	G1093

Additional Cross-References

John 3:35 (Parallel theme): The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

1 Peter 3:22 (Parallel theme): Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Matthew 11:27 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Hebrews 2:8 (Parallel theme): Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.

1 Corinthians 15:27 (Parallel theme): For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

John 17:2 (Parallel theme): As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

John 13:3 (References Jesus): Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

Colossians 2:10 (Parallel theme): And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Hebrews 1:2 (Parallel theme): Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

Luke 10:22 (Parallel theme): All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.