

Matthew 4:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Analysis

Satan's demand for worship reveals his ultimate goal—usurping God's glory. The audacity of this demand to the incarnate Son shows Satan's delusion and pride. The temptation was to gain the world without the cross, receiving dominion through compromise rather than righteousness. Christ's mission required suffering and death to redeem His people; this temptation offered kingship without atonement, glory without sacrifice.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern protocol involved prostration before kings. Satan demanded this ultimate act of submission and worship. The Greek 'proskuneo' means to prostrate in worship, the honor due to God alone (Exodus 20:3-5).

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does Satan's demand for worship reveal about his ultimate motivation and the nature of his rebellion?
2. How does this temptation illuminate why Christ had to suffer and die rather than simply receive earthly dominion?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λέγει	αὐτῷ	Ταῦτα	πάντα	σοι	δῶσω	ἐὰν
And	saith	unto him	these things	All	thee	will I give	if
G2532	G3004	G846	G5023	G3956	G4671	G1325	G1437

πεσὼν	προσκυνήσῃς	μοι
thou wilt fall down	and worship	me
G4098	G4352	G3427

Additional Cross-References

2 Corinthians 4:4 (Parallel theme): In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Revelation 19:10 (Worship): And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

John 16:11 (Parallel theme): Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

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

1 Timothy 3:6 (Parallel theme): Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

