

Men's Bible Journey

If in Christ there is anything that will stimulate you, any persuasion of love, any warmth or affection, or compassion, and all your sharing in the Spirit - make my joy complete by having one mind-set, united in love, in heart and conviction.



Greater love hath no man than this ...

John 15:13

Never act out of envy or self-promotion! In humility give preference to others, and their interests before your own. Make yours that mind which you have in Christ Jesus: who, though existing in divine nature, was not govern by holding to equity with God. Rather, he poured himself into the nature of a slave; being born in the likeness of humans. Then, appearing in every aspect as man, he humbled himself in his obedience to the extent of death - even death on a cross. At this God exalted him on high and made his that name above all names; so that at the name of "Jesus" every knee will bow in the heaven, on earth and beneath - and every tongue acclaim: "Jesus the Messiah is Lord!" to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:1-11 (self translation)

I. The citation of Isaiah 45:22-24 helps to explain the "form" and "equality" of verse 6. Here, the apostle uses a direct Old Testament citation that can only be applied to YHWH; thus, further adding to his point of humility.

II. Isaiah 45:22-24 *"Turn to me and be liberated, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. By myself I have sworn, from my mouth has gone forth in righteousness a word that shall not return: 'To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.' 'Only in YAHWEH, it shall be said of me, are righteousness and strength; to him shall come and be ashamed, all who were incensed against him. In YAHWEH all the offspring of Israel shall prosper and glory."*

III. Moreover, the submission that is to be declared by all who are; (1) in Heaven, (2) on the earth and (3) under the earth, finds a fuller fulfillment in verse 11 where it is proclaimed that "every tongue will confess" that **"κύριος Ἰησοῦς Χριστός"** ("kurios Iesus Christos"). The use of the term "LORD" for the Son in this context is quite revealing, given the context of Philippians 2:5-11 and Paul's citation of Isaiah 45:23. In the LXX, the term "LORD" is substituted for the Divine name of YHWH. The Greek word for "LORD" is that of **"κύριος"** (kurios), the very same term used of the Son in verse 11. Point-in-fact, the context of Isaiah 45, which Paul has in view through his citation, demands the proclamation of Jesus Christ as YHWH. In Isaiah 45:3, it is clear that it is the Covenant God of Israel speaking when the text declares, **"ἐγὼ κύριος ὁ θεός,"** "I LORD the God").

IV. The mind of Jesus is the believer goal - humble equals human holiness - aggression is sin. See Micah 6:6-8; James 4:5-6; Matthew 23:1-13; I Peter 5:1-7 (II Corinthians 5:14-21).