

Acts 13:47

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Analysis

Paul's quotation of Isaiah 49:6 applies the Servant's mission to Christian witnesses, showing Gentile inclusion fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. The phrase 'a light to the Gentiles' and 'salvation unto the ends of the earth' establishes the universal scope of gospel mission. This biblical foundation justified Paul's strategic turn from resistant Jews to receptive Gentiles.

Historical Context

In Pisidian Antioch (AD 48), Jewish opposition drove Paul to explicit Gentile focus. This pattern (Jews first, then Gentiles after rejection) repeated throughout Paul's ministry, though he never abandoned hope for Jewish salvation (Romans 9-11).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does Old Testament prophecy establish the legitimacy of Gentile mission?

2. What principles guide prioritizing ministry to responsive audiences versus persistent outreach to resistant groups?

Interlinear Text

οὕτως	γὰρ	ἐντέταλται	ἡμῖν	ὁ	κύριος	Τέθεικά	
so	For	commanded	us	G3588	the Lord	saying I have set	
G3779	G1063	G1781	G2254		G2962	G5087	
σε	εἰς	φῶς	ἐθνῶν	τοῦ	εἶναί	σε	εἰς
that thou	for	a light	of the Gentiles	G3588	shouldest be	that thou	for
G4571	G1519	G5457	G1484		G1511	G4571	G1519
σωτηρίαν	ἕως	ἐσχάτου	τῆς	γῆς			
salvation	unto	the ends	G3588	of the earth			
G4991	G2193	G2078		G1093			

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 49:6 (Salvation): And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth.

Isaiah 42:6 (Light): I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

Luke 2:32 (Light): A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Isaiah 45:22 (Salvation): Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

Hosea 1:10 (Parallel theme): Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God.

Isaiah 60:3 (Light): And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Isaiah 42:1 (Light): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Acts 1:8 (Parallel theme): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Matthew 28:19 (Parallel theme): Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Amos 9:12 (References Lord): That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called by my name, saith the LORD that doeth this.