

Acts 15:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Analysis

James uses Peter's Hebrew name 'Simeon,' emphasizing continuity with Jewish faith while acknowledging Gentile inclusion. He summarizes Peter's account of God's visitation to 'take out of them a people for his name.' The Greek 'laos' (people) - previously reserved for Israel - now includes Gentiles. This demonstrates that the church, not ethnic Israel, is God's chosen people in the New Covenant.

Historical Context

James references Peter's experience with Cornelius (Acts 10, circa AD 40), the watershed moment when God first officially brought Gentiles into the church. This event preceded the current council by nearly a decade.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's election of a people from all nations fulfill His redemptive plan?
2. What is the relationship between the church and Israel in God's purposes?

3. How should the church's multi-ethnic composition shape our worship and witness?

Interlinear Text

Συμεὼν	ἐξηγήσατο	καθὼς	πρῶτον	ὁ	θεὸς	ἐπεσκέψατο
Simeon	hath declared	how	at the first	G3588	God	did visit
G4826	G1834	G2531	G4412		G2316	G1980
λαβεῖν	ἐξ	ἐθνῶν	λαὸν	ἐπὶ	τῷ	ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ
to take	out of	the Gentiles	them a people	for	G3588	name G846
G2983	G1537	G1484	G2992	G1909		G3686

Additional Cross-References

2 Peter 1:1 (References God): Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

Isaiah 43:21 (Parallel theme): This people have I formed for myself; they shall shew forth my praise.