

John 12:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

Analysis

Greeks come to Jerusalem to worship, fulfilling the Pharisees' unwitting prophecy that 'the world' follows Jesus. These Greeks were likely God-fearing Gentiles attracted to Jewish monotheism, permitted to worship in the outer court. Their seeking Jesus marks the gospel's movement toward Gentile inclusion. John introduces them immediately after the Pharisees' 'world' comment, showing divine irony. Their presence signals that Jesus' hour has come—His death will draw all peoples (v. 32). The gospel transcends ethnic boundaries, fulfilling Abrahamic covenant promises.

Historical Context

God-fearers were Gentiles who attended synagogue and observed some Jewish practices without full conversion. Their access to temple courts was limited to the outer court (Court of Gentiles).

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does the Greeks' arrival demonstrate the gospel's universal scope?
2. What does their seeking Jesus teach about the Spirit drawing all nations?
3. In what ways does Jesus' death accomplish what His life ministry didn't—Gentile inclusion?

Interlinear Text

Ἦσαν δὲ τινες Ἑλληνές ἐκ τῶν ἀναβατόντων ἵνα
there were And certain Greeks among them that came up to
G2258 G1161 G5100 G1672 G1537 G3588 G305 G2443

προσκυνήσωσιν ἐν τῇ ἑορτῇ·
worship at the feast
G4352 G1722 G1859

Additional Cross-References

John 7:35 (Parallel theme): Then said the Jews among themselves, Whither will he go, that we shall not find him? will he go unto the dispersed among the Gentiles, and teach the Gentiles?

Acts 17:4 (Parallel theme): And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.

Isaiah 11:10 (Parallel theme): And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Acts 8:27 (Worship): And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

Mark 7:26 (Parallel theme): The woman was a Greek, a Syrophenician by nation; and she besought him that he would cast forth the devil out of her daughter.

