

John 17:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

Analysis

I have manifested thy name (ἐφανερώσά σου τὸ ὄνομα)—Jesus revealed not merely God's title but His character, nature, and covenant identity. In Hebrew thought, 'name' (shem) encompasses the entire person; Jesus made the Father's heart known through His words, works, and person (John 1:18, 14:9).

The men which thou gavest me out of the world—the disciples are gift-objects of divine election, chosen from (ἐκ) the cosmos but not of it. **Thine they were** affirms their prior ownership by the Father before being entrusted to the Son—a Trinitarian economy of salvation. **They have kept thy word** (τὸν λόγον σου τετήρηκαν)—the perfect tense indicates ongoing faithfulness. Despite their failures, Jesus credits them with persevering obedience, interceding as their great High Priest.

Historical Context

This is the opening of Jesus's High Priestly Prayer (John 17), offered in the Upper Room or en route to Gethsemane on the night of His betrayal (AD 30). Jesus prays for His disciples before His arrest, revealing the Father's electing love and the disciples' mission. The prayer reflects Jewish priestly intercession patterns, particularly the high priest entering the Holy of Holies on Yom Kippur.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's statement 'thine they were, and thou gavest them me' shape your understanding of salvation as the Father's gift and the Son's stewardship?
2. What does it mean that Jesus 'manifested' God's name—not just revealed information, but made the Father's character visible through incarnation?

Interlinear Text

Ἐφανέρωσά	σου	τὸ	ὄνομα	τοῖς	ἀνθρώποις	οὓς		
I have manifested	thy	G3588	name	G3588	unto the men	which		
G5319	G4675		G3686		G444	G3739		
δέδωκας·	μοι	ἐκ	τοῦ	κόσμου	σοὶ	ἦσαν	καὶ	ἐμοὶ
thou gavest	me	out of	G3588	the world	thine	they were	and	me
G1325	G3427	G1537		G2889	G4674	G2258	G2532	G1698
αὐτοὺς	δέδωκας·	καὶ	τὸν	λόγον	σου	τετηρήκασιν		
them	thou gavest	and	G3588	word	thy	they have kept		
G846	G1325	G2532		G3056	G4675	G5083		

Additional Cross-References

John 17:26 (Parallel theme): And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

1 John 5:20 (Parallel theme): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

John 6:37 (Parallel theme): All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

John 17:24 (Parallel theme): Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

John 17:2 (Parallel theme): As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

John 15:19 (Parallel theme): If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

2 Corinthians 4:6 (Parallel theme): For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 3:8 (Word): I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Hebrews 3:6 (Parallel theme): But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Psalms 22:22 (Parallel theme): I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.