

John 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Analysis

Jesus' declaration 'salvation is of the Jews' affirms God's redemptive plan through Israel and the Jewish Messiah. 'Ye worship ye know not what' indicates that Samaritan religion, lacking the prophets and full Scripture, was deficient in revelation. Reformed theology affirms that only worship based on God's self-revelation in Scripture is acceptable—sincerity without truth is insufficient.

Historical Context

Samaritans accepted only the Pentateuch, rejecting the Prophets and Writings. They modified the Ten Commandments to designate Gerizim as the place of worship. This limited canon resulted in incomplete understanding of God's redemptive purposes.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does this verse challenge modern notions that sincerity in worship matters more than truth?

2. What does it mean that salvation comes through the particular history and people God chose?

Interlinear Text

ὤμεῖς	προσκυνοῦμεν	ὃ	οὐκ	οἶδαμεν	ἡμεῖς		
Ye	worship	what	not	we know	we		
G5210	G4352	G3739	G3756	G1492	G2249		
προσκυνοῦμεν	ὃ	οἶδαμεν	ὅτι	ἡ	σωτηρία	ἐκ	τῶν
worship	what	we know	for	G3588	salvation	of	G3588
G4352	G3739	G1492	G3754		G4991	G1537	
Ἰουδαίων	ἐστίν						
the Jews	is						
G2453	G2076						

Additional Cross-References

Acts 17:23 (Worship): For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.

Isaiah 2:3 (Parallel theme): And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

Luke 24:47 (Parallel theme): And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 17:30 (Parallel theme): And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Psalms 147:19 (Parallel theme): He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel.

Hebrews 7:14 (Parallel theme): For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood.

Psalms 68:20 (Salvation): He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto GOD the Lord belong the issues from death.

Isaiah 12:2 (Salvation): Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

Isaiah 46:13 (Salvation): I bring near my righteousness; it shall not be far off, and my salvation shall not tarry: and I will place salvation in Zion for Israel my glory.

Zechariah 9:9 (Salvation): Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

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