

John 4:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

Analysis

Jesus declares 'the hour cometh, and now is' when true worship occurs 'in spirit and in truth', transcending location (Jerusalem vs. Gerizim). 'In spirit' means from the heart, enabled by the Holy Spirit, not mere external ritual. 'In truth' requires accordance with God's revelation, especially Christ who is Truth personified (14:6). This prophecy anticipates Pentecost when worship would no longer be geographically centered but Spirit-empowered worldwide. The 'now is' shows the age of spiritual worship began with Christ's coming.

Historical Context

The Samaritan woman raised the worship-location debate (v. 20)—Jews worshiped in Jerusalem, Samaritans on Mount Gerizim. Jesus transcends this argument: New Covenant worship isn't about place but person (Christ) and power (Spirit). Within 40 years, Rome would destroy both temples, vindicating Jesus' words.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does your worship reflect 'spirit and truth' rather than mere religious routine?
2. What does it mean practically to worship 'in the Spirit' during corporate and private worship?

Interlinear Text

ἀλλ' ἔρχεται ὥρα καὶ νῦν ἔστιν ὅτε οἱ ἀληθινοὶ¹
But cometh the hour and now is when the true
G235 G2064 G5610 G2532 G3568 G2076 G3753 G3588 G228

προσκυνηταὶ προσκυνοῦντας τῷ πατὴρ ἐν πνεύματι
worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit
G4353 G4352 G3588 G3962 G1722 G4151

καὶ ἀληθείᾳ· καὶ γὰρ ὁ πατὴρ τοιούτους ζητεῖ τοὺς
and in truth and G1063 G3588 the Father such seeketh G3588
G2532 G225 G2532 G3962 G5108 G2212

προσκυνοῦντας αὐτόν
shall worship him
G4352 G846

Additional Cross-References

Philippians 3:3 (Spirit): For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

John 5:25 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

Galatians 4:6 (Spirit): And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:26 (Spirit): Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

John 12:23 (Parallel theme): And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.

John 1:17 (Truth): For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 29:13 (Parallel theme): Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:

Ephesians 6:18 (Spirit): Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

John 4:21 (Worship): Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

Romans 8:15 (Spirit): For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.