

Luke 1:77

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins,

Analysis

John's mission is 'to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins.' This defines salvation in terms of forgiveness—remission (Greek 'aphesis,' release/cancellation) of sins. Knowledge of salvation isn't mere intellectual awareness but experiential understanding that sins are forgiven. John's preparatory ministry would make people conscious of sin and need for forgiveness, preparing them to receive Christ who actually accomplishes remission. The phrase 'his people' indicates particular, not universal salvation—God saves those who are His. This verse shows that true salvation requires both consciousness of sin and knowledge of forgiveness through Christ.

Historical Context

John's baptism of repentance prepared people to recognize their sin and need for cleansing, pointing forward to Christ's actual sin-bearing work. His ministry created awareness that salvation means forgiveness, not merely political deliverance.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does knowledge of sin and need for forgiveness prepare people to receive salvation?
2. What is the difference between intellectual knowledge of salvation and experiential knowledge?
3. Why is remission of sins central to salvation rather than merely one benefit?

Interlinear Text

τοῦ	δοῦναι	γινῶσιν	σωτηρίας	τῷ	λαῷ	αὐτῶν	ἐν
G3588	To give G1325	knowledge G1108	of salvation G4991	G3588	people G2992	of their G846	by G1722
ἀφέσει	ἁμαρτιῶν	αὐτῶν					
the remission G859	sins G266	of their G846					

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:31 (Salvation): Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 10:43 (Sin): To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 2:38 (Sin): Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 3:19 (Sin): Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

John 1:34 (Parallel theme): And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

John 1:29 (Sin): The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Luke 3:6 (Salvation): And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Luke 3:3 (Sin): And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins;

Jeremiah 31:34 (Sin): And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Ephesians 1:7 (Sin): In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

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