

Luke 19:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.

Analysis

Jesus pronounces salvation: 'And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham.' Jesus declares: 'This day is salvation come' (Σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, Sēmeron sōtēria tō oikō toutō egeneto)—salvation has arrived, aorist tense indicating decisive completed action. The scope: 'to this house' (τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ, tō oikō toutō)—Zacchaeus' entire household. The reason: 'he also is a son of Abraham' (καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς νιὸς Αβραάμ ἔστιν, kathoti kai autos huios Abraam estin). This doesn't mean ethnic descent saves (Jesus consistently rejected that, Luke 3:8, John 8:39), but that genuine faith makes one Abraham's true child (Romans 4:16, Galatians 3:7-9). Zacchaeus demonstrated Abrahamic faith through repentance, transformed life, and faith in Jesus.

Historical Context

The phrase 'son of Abraham' was significant in first-century Jewish thought. Tax collectors, who collaborated with Rome and violated purity laws, were considered apostates who forfeited covenant blessings. Jesus' declaration that Zacchaeus is Abraham's son despite his profession shocked hearers. It demonstrated that faith, not ethnicity or religious observance, determines covenant membership. This prepared the way for Gentile inclusion—if despised tax collectors can be Abraham's children through faith, so can pagans (Galatians 3:26-29). The household salvation doesn't teach baptismal regeneration but reflects the biblical

pattern that God often saves families together (Acts 10:2, 44-48, 11:14, 16:15, 31-34, 18:8).

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What does Jesus mean by calling Zacchaeus a 'son of Abraham'—ethnic descent or faith-based membership in God's people?
2. How does this incident challenge ethnic or religious exclusivism in defining God's people?
3. What does salvation coming 'to this house' teach about God's pattern of saving families together?

Interlinear Text

εἶπεν	δὲ	πρὸς	αὐτὸς	ό	Ἰησοῦς	ὅτι	Σήμερον	σωτηρία
said	And	unto	he	G3588	Jesus	G3754	This day	salvation
G2036	G1161	G4314	G846		G2424		G4594	G4991
τῷ	οἴκῳ	τούτῳ	ἐγένετο	καθότι	καὶ	αὐτὸς	νίὸς	
G3588	house	to this	come	forsomuch as	also	he	a son	
G3624	G5129	G1096		G2530	G2532	G846	G5207	
Ἄβραάμ	ἐστιν·							
of Abraham	is							
G11		G2076						

Additional Cross-References

Galatians 3:7 (References Abraham): Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.

Luke 13:16 (References Abraham): And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

Romans 4:16 (References Abraham): Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,

Galatians 3:29 (References Abraham): And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

1 Peter 2:10 (Parallel theme): Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

Luke 3:8 (References Abraham): Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Galatians 3:14 (References Jesus): That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Luke 2:30 (Salvation): For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

Luke 13:30 (Parallel theme): And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.